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A SKETCH
OF
THE PROGRESS AND RESOURCES
OF
NEW SOUTH WALES:

BY
GREVILLE TREGARTHEN,

*Chief Clerk, Government Statistician's Department of New South Wales,
Author of "New South Wales 1860 to 1889:—A Statistical Sketch," "The Commonwealth of Australia," &c.*

WITH COLOURED DIAGRAMS.



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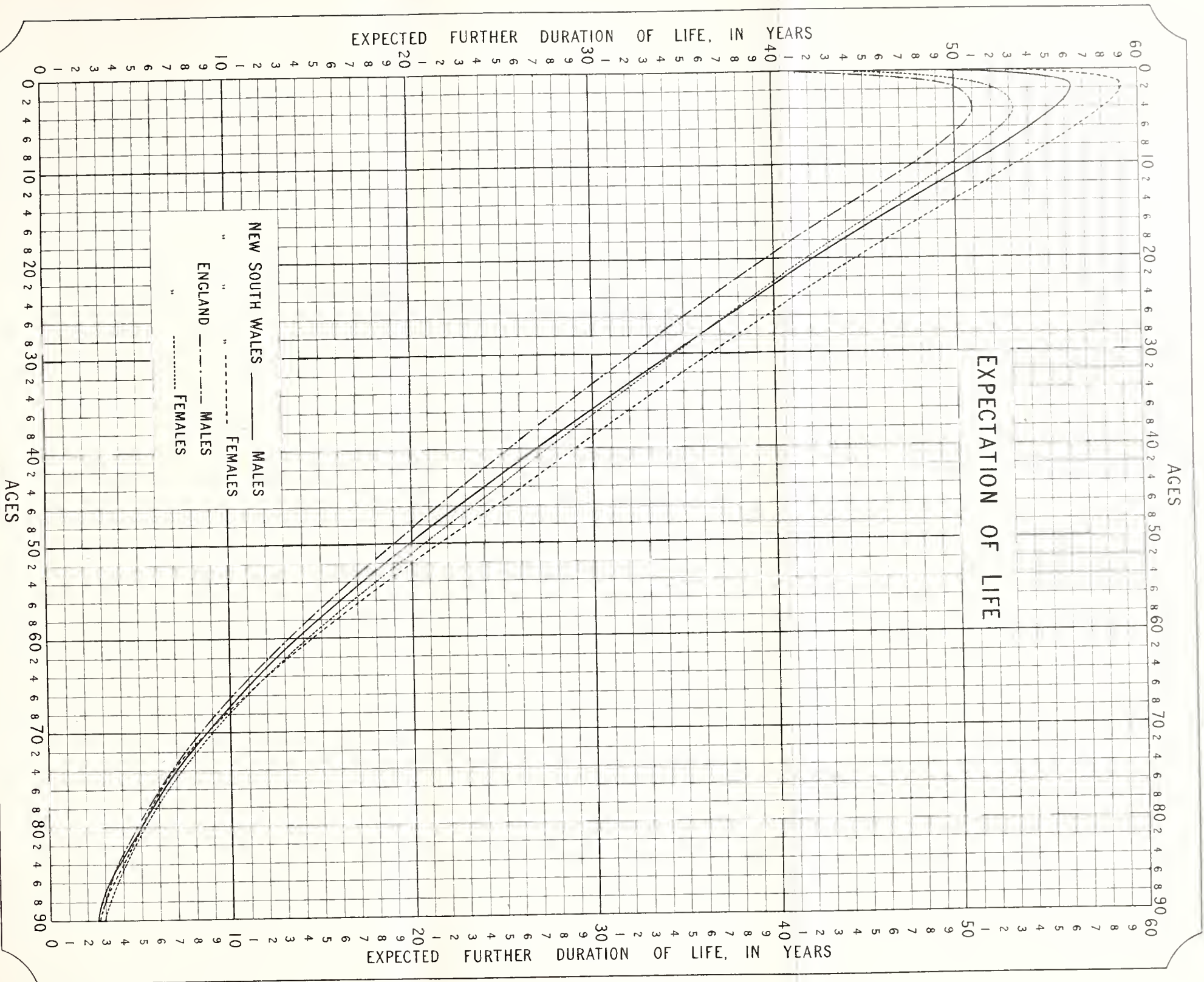
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ALL the particulars in the following pages have been taken from official records, except where expressly stated to the contrary. The figures have been revised by Mr. G. H. Pitt, the officer in charge of the Tabulating Branch of the Government Statistician's Department.

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PROGRESS AND RESOURCES

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES.

I. DISCOVERY AND EARLY HISTORY.

THE Portuguese claim to be the first civilized people who discovered the continent of Australia, and it is probable that long before any systematic attempt was made to explore the coast line, Malays and perhaps Europeans, on their way to the markets of the East, sighted the rugged, uninviting shores, but the first explorations in Australian waters of which there are any authentic records were made in 1606 by the Dutch in a ship called the "Duyfhen," from Bantam. Other navigators after this visited the Great South Land at intervals, many of the expeditions being attended with tragic vicissitudes, but no attempt was made either to colonise or form trading stations in the country until after the return of Captain James Cook and Sir Joseph Banks, who had in the "Endeavour" made extensive explorations and surveyed the East coast of the continent, which they called New South Wales. Their report of the country attracted the attention of English statesmen to the vast territory which was occupied only by a race of black savages, and in 1787 it was determined by the English Government to form a penal settlement on the East coast, which had been taken possession of by Cook in the name of Great Britain. In January of the following year the "first fleet" cast anchor in Port Jackson, and Captain Arthur Phillip, the Governor of the colony, set to work to land those under his care at Sydney Cove.

During the early days of settlement almost insurmountable difficulties were met with, and more than once the little band of pioneers were on the verge of destruction from starvation. But as time went by and land was put under cultivation the prospects of New South Wales greatly improved. Immigrants arrived in considerable numbers, and the penal establishment became transformed into a colony of free settlers. For some years growth was cramped by the mountain barrier which runs a short distance from the coast the whole length of the country, and which no one had been able to penetrate, although several attempts to do so had been made. The rapidly increasing flocks and herds of the settlers became too numerous for the restricted pastures, and in periods of drought the losses from want of grazing land were lamentably heavy.

In 1813 this disadvantage was removed by Messrs. Blaxland, Wentworth, and Lawson, who found a pass over the mountains and caught a glimpse of the fertile plains beyond. A road was soon made, winding between craggy summits and bare precipices, and all obstacles to expansion being gone, the settlers in large numbers drove their sheep and cattle to the new-found territory. For the first forty years of the colony's existence the government was placed almost entirely in the hands of a Governor appointed by the

English Secretary of State, but in 1828 a small Council was created to advise him, and thenceforward the constitutional liberties enjoyed in Great Britain were gradually conferred on the inhabitants of New South Wales. Although the powers and duties of the local Council were enlarged from time to time, that body was for some years a nominee, and not a popular assembly. As the people increased in numbers the demand for autonomy became louder, and in 1843 a new Constitution was granted, establishing a Council two-thirds of the members of which were to be elected by the inhabitants and one-third nominated by the Crown. At this time the Colony passed through a trying ordeal, and experienced a period of acute depression in which its pastoral possessions, the chief source of wealth, almost ceased to have any marketable value. The enormous growth following the discovery of the pasture lands in the interior had caused reckless speculation and unreasonable inflation of prices, and there followed a corresponding collapse of financial and commercial enterprise. But in spite of the gloomy outlook the agitation for entire political freedom continued, and in 1850 the colony was invited by the English Government to draw up a Constitution for itself, suitable to its special requirements. While these events were occurring Mr. Hargraves, who had visited the Californian goldfields but had returned to New South Wales, discovered gold in payable quantities near Bathurst, and the prospects of the settlement were suddenly completely changed. A mighty rush of population from all quarters of the globe took place, and for a short time the whole colony was engaged in one big gamble for gold. But the fascinating attractions of the goldfields permanently benefitted New South Wales, for they brought the country under the notice of the more enterprising spirits of the old world as a suitable place in which to form a new home. In 1856 a Constitution creating two Houses, one elective and one nominee, came into operation, and the advantages of Responsible Government have since been enjoyed by the people. Under the new conditions there has been wonderful development in every department of national prosperity. Steam communication with Europe was established in 1853, and 19 years later a cable was opened for the transmission of messages between England and Australia. The country is traversed by great trunk lines of railway, and public works of all descriptions have been vigorously pushed forward, while commerce and industry have increased with marvellous rapidity.

II. PHYSICAL CONFIGURATION AND CLIMATE.

New South Wales falls into three great natural divisions—the eastern seaboard, 38,200 square miles in extent, the central plateau, embracing 84,900 square miles, and the western plains, which cover 187,600 square miles. At a distance, varying from 25 to 120 miles from the coast, a range of mountains from 3,000 feet to 7,000 feet in height stretches from north to south, rising abruptly on the eastern and seaward side and sloping gently towards the plain lands of the interior. The coast-line is indented with numerous fine harbours, and many streams flow down the eastern slopes of the mountains through districts undulating with hill and valley, and, after a course bordered by rich alluvial flats adapted to every kind of cultivation, discharge into the Pacific Ocean. The tableland or central plateau, which is 100 miles in breadth at the southern extremity, gradually narrows towards the north until it is only a few miles across. The western watershed is drained by several large navigable rivers, which wind a sinuous course through the distant plains.

The coastal region has a mild and pleasant climate, resembling that of Southern Europe, but the average temperature has a smaller range and the winters are far less severe; indeed, the natural salubrity of the Pacific Slope is unsurpassed, even by the famed resorts of the Mediterranean seaboard. The town of Kiandra on the southern plateau has a temperature corresponding to that of Dumfermline, in Scotland, while the climate of New England, situated on the tableland more to the north, is as near perfection as possible. The western plains are not so pleasant, the summer in some places being very hot, but the air is dry and the nights generally cool and refreshing. The winters even in this portion of the Colony are most enjoyable, the mean reading of the thermometer being 52.3° , and the sky usually clear and bright.

The rainfall varies in different localities from 63.2 inches on the northern coast to 13.7 inches on the western plains.

The seaward side of the Great Dividing range averages about 48 inches, the tableland 32 inches, and the western interior 17 inches per annum.

III. SETTLEMENT.

At various stages of the country's progress and development, widely different systems for the settlement of an industrial population on the lands of New South Wales have been in force. In the early days land was alienated by grants, orders, and dedications solely at the discretion of the Governor. In this way, grants, frequently of extensive areas, were made in favour of naval and military men and free emigrants. In 1831, a change was effected, and regulations for the sale of rural lands and urban allotments by auction were introduced, the minimum price of country lands being fixed at 5s. per acre. In 1837, the minimum price was raised to 12s. per acre, and in 1843 the rate was further increased to 20s. per acre, with liberty to select at the upset price country portions offered and not bid for, or the deposit on which had been forfeited. This system lasted until the abrogation of the order in Council, and the introduction of new legislation by the Parliament of New South Wales. Previous to the Act of 1861 becoming law, alienations of land had been as follows:—

| | Acres. |
|--|-----------|
| Area alienated under Surveyor-General Oxley, previous to 1st January, 1828 | 1,617,542 |
| Total area of land alienated as per return and Government Map, 1837 | 4,418,758 |
| Total area of land alienated in all forms previous to 1861 | 7,338,539 |

The circumstances of the Colony were greatly altered by the discovery of gold, and the question of land settlement had to be dealt with in an entirely new spirit to meet the wants of a class of immigrants of a different type to those contemplated by former enactments. The measure of 1861 was intended to facilitate the settlement of an industrial agricultural population side by side with the pastoral tenants by means of free selection in limited areas before survey. To this privilege was attached the condition of *bona fide* residence, and the land was to be sold at a fixed price, payable by instalments, or partly remaining at interest. Unconditional sales still took place, and, during the twenty-three years the Act of 1861 was in force, 23,470,140 acres were sold conditionally, and 15,572,001 acres by auction, or otherwise without conditions. In a very large number of cases the land selected, or purchased, reverted to the State, so that the absolute area sold or in process of sale, when the Act of 1884 came into operation, amounted to only 40,157,562 acres.

There were originally regulations under which any person might apply for a license to occupy runs on Crown lands, the extent of which was only limited by the boundaries of the surrounding stations. The fee or rent was £10 per year for a section of 25 square miles, or 16,000 acres in extent, £2 10s. per annum being charged for every five additional square miles. The Imperial Act of 1847 rendered it lawful for the Crown to make or alter regulations for the sale and occupation of waste lands, and almost immediately an entirely different system for pastoral occupation was introduced. Hitherto the tenure had been a yearly one, and the fee paid calculated on the extent of land occupied, but now fixity of tenure for a term of years was substituted, and the rent was based upon the stock-carrying capacity of the runs. The country was divided into three parts—the settled, the intermediate, and the unsettled districts. For the last division the term of the pastoral leases was fixed at fourteen years; in the intermediate division, at eight years; and in the settled districts the yearly tenure was retained. The licensing fee was at the rate of a minimum of £10 for 4,000 sheep, or a corresponding number of cattle; and £2 10s. for every additional 1,000 sheep, or an equivalent number of cattle. In the settled districts lands were let for pastoral purposes only, in sections of not less than one square mile, at an annual rental of 10s. The Occupation Act of 1861, which abolished the orders in Council, again changed the system, and limited the tenure of pastoral leases to five years in the unsettled and intermediate districts, leaving the whole of the pastoral leases open to free selectors. The Act of 1861 was, after many amendments, repealed in 1884, and a new Land Act passed, which was amended in 1889. Though differing widely in many important particulars, these measures maintain the principle of free selection before survey, but with an essential difference. Under the Act of 1861 the whole area of the alienated lands was thrown open to free selection, the result being that grave difficulties were created between the pastoral and agricultural settlers, but while retaining selection before survey, greater security of tenure was afforded to the squatters by the new law. The whole colony is now divided into districts, under the charge of local Land Boards and Land Agents, and a Land Court has been established to hear appeals against the decisions of the local Boards.

A brief Summary of the Condition of Settlement in New South Wales is given in the following table:—

| Size of Holdings. | Occupiers of | | | | Land Used for— | | | | Total Number of Holdings. | Area—Freehold. | Area—Leasehold. | Total. | Percentage of Land in the various sizes of Holdings. | Percentage to Total Area of the Colony Alienated. | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|---|-------------------|--|
| | Freehold Land. | Rented Land. | Partly Freehold and Rented Lands. | Freehold and Crown Lands. | Agriculture. | Grazing. | Mining. | Residential Areas, &c. | | | | | | Freehold. | Rented. | |
| 1 to 30 acres | 7,349 | 3,328 | 461 | 116 | 4,580 | 1,355 | 32 | 5,287 | 11,254 | acres. 62,883 | acres. 40,733 | acres. 103,616 | per cent. 0·25 | per cent. 0·15 | per cent. 0·10 | |
| 31 to 400 „ | 16,043 | 5,239 | 1,729 | 3,701 | 15,352 | 9,742 | 56 | 1,612 | 26,762 | 3,232,998 | 771,564 | 4,004,562 | 9·73 | 7·85 | 1·87 | |
| 401 to 1,000 „ | 3,294 | 463 | 632 | 2,517 | 1,482 | 5,239 | 21 | 164 | 6,906 | 3,851,730 | 564,282 | 4,416,012 | 10·73 | 9·36 | 1·37 | |
| 1,001 to 10,000 „ | 1,692 | 241 | 475 | 1,974 | 414 | 3,916 | 30 | 22 | 4,382 | 10,111,678 | 1,673,793 | 11,785,471 | 28·63 | 24·57 | 4·07 | |
| Upwards of 10,000 „ | 73 | 13 | 37 | 533 | 15 | 641 | .. | .. | 656 | 19,185,833 | 1,661,383 | 20,847,216 | 50·66 | 46·62 | 4·04 | |
| Totals | 28,451 | 9,334 | 3,334 | 8,841 | 21,843 | 20,893 | 139 | 7,085 | 49,960 | 36,445,122 | 4,711,755 | 41,156,877 | 100·00 | 88·55 | 11·45 | |

IV. PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

When the first expedition landed at Sydney Cove the live stock in possession of settlers comprised only one bull, four cows, one calf, one stallion, three mares, three foals, twenty-nine sheep, twelve pigs, and a few goats, but the suitability of the country for pastoral pursuits soon induced the most enterprising of the colonists to turn their attention to the breeding of sheep and cattle and the growth of wool. Captain Macarthur made special efforts, by systematic selection and the importation of the best sheep procurable, to improve the strain, and after a short time was rewarded by the production of a fleece of very fine texture, which met with a ready and remunerative market among English manufacturers. The difficulties of transport in these early days were very great, but numerous importations were made from India and elsewhere. Some rams and ewes of a very fine breed, which had been presented by the King of Spain to the Dutch Government, were successfully brought from the Cape, and a few years later some additional specimens of the same noted strain were obtained by Macarthur from the Royal flocks in England. Thenceforward wool-growing became the most important industry of the country, and the number of sheep depastured has increased very rapidly. The progress of sheep-breeding may be seen in the following table :—

| Year. | Number of Sheep. | Sheep per inhabitant. |
|-------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1860 | 6,119,000 | 17 |
| 1870 | 16,309,000 | 33 |
| 1880 | 35,398,000 | 48 |
| 1892 | 61,831,416 | 53 |

The ratio of increase for the whole period has been 7.8 per cent. annually, but in some years there was an actual decline. Were it not for the losses occasioned by droughts the flocks of the colony would double themselves in four years, but the loss from the cause named is sometimes very heavy. In 1884, for instance, it is estimated that owing to the absence of increase from lambing and the extraordinary mortality among breeding stock, the loss through the adverse season must have amounted to at least 8,138,000 head, which at 5s. each is equal to £2,034,500. Were there not some check of this description it is not improbable that the flocks of New South Wales would soon reach the stock-carrying capacity of the country, but the capabilities of the Colony in this respect are very hard to gauge, for with the advance of settlement they may be greatly increased by water-conservation, irrigation, and the cultivation of drought-resisting plants and shrubs.

The climate is so genial that there is no necessity to house stock which may be safely left in the open air even during the winter months. The old method of tending sheep was to place them under the charge of a shepherd and let them wander at will unconfined, but it has been found that a station can be more economically worked, and that better fleeces and a higher percentage of lambs can be obtained by the subdivision of the run into paddocks. At the present time about 98 per cent. of the sheep are paddocked, the small balance being still under the care of shepherds. When the sheep are sheared the wool is packed at the station in bales weighing 450 lb., from 4 ft. 6 in. to 5 ft. 3 in. in length, and 2 ft. 2 in. in depth and breadth. On arrival at the port of shipment these bales are "dumped" in a hydraulic press, and when

stowed in the ship are less than half their original length. About 99 per cent. of the wool is now shorn in the grease, and the weight thus obtained averages 5 lb. 9 oz. per sheep and 1 lb. 15 oz. per lamb, but if washed the weight of fleece is reduced to about 2 lb. 14½ oz. and 1 lb. 4½ oz. respectively. Some years ago only about half the wool annually produced was shipped from New South Wales ports, the balance being exported to Europe, *via* the ports of the neighbouring provinces, but owing to improved railway communication the proportion has increased to 72 per cent. The navigable state, or the reverse, of the rivers of the interior governs to a large extent the place of shipment of the clip from the far western districts of the country.

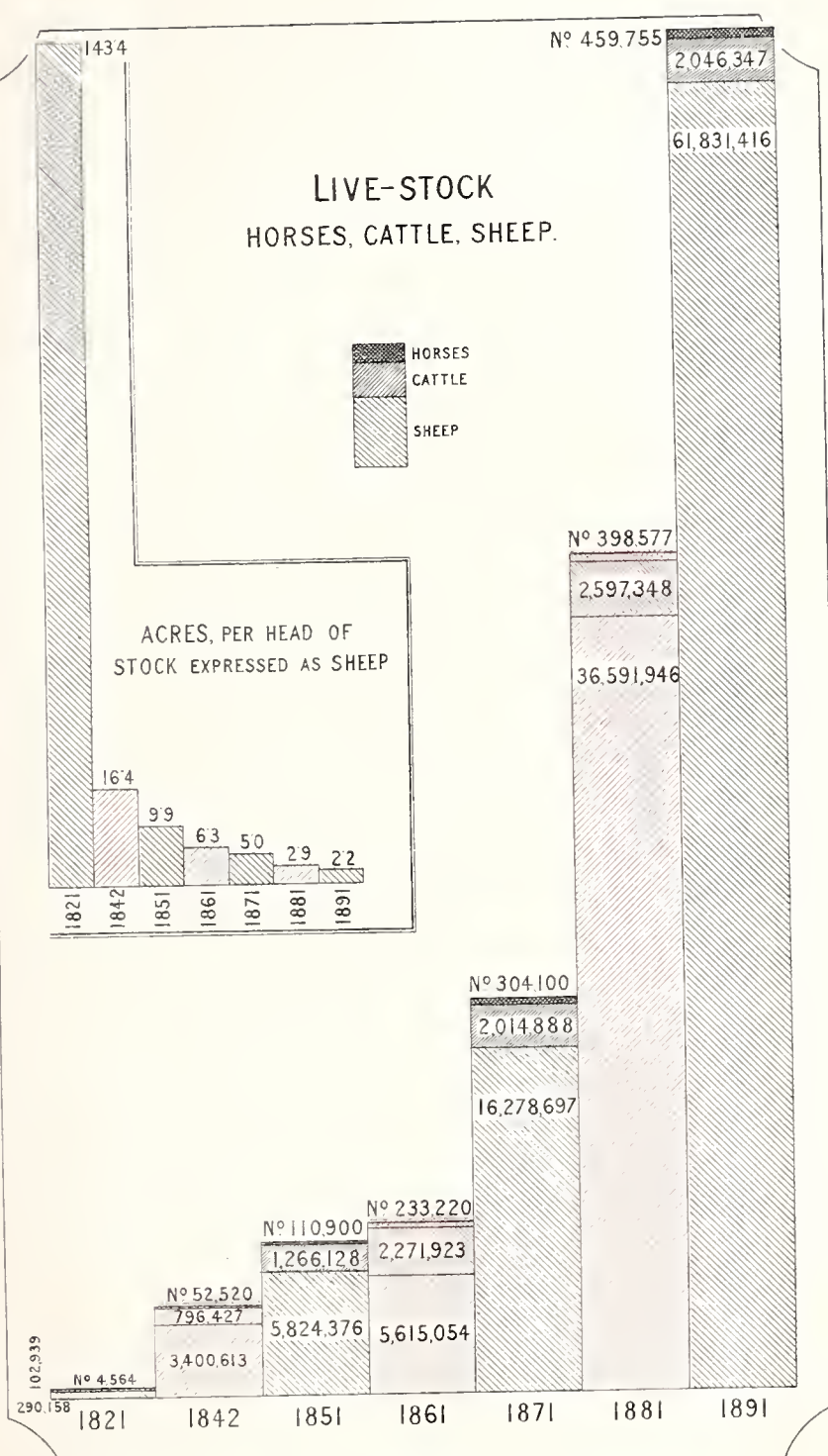
The pastoral interests are so extensive that the fluctuations in the value of wool in the consuming markets greatly influence the national prosperity. Thus, if the prices of 1884 had ruled in 1886, the growers of New South Wales would have got nearly £2,000,000 more than they actually received; and, although in 1888 nearly 48,000,000 lb. more wool was exported than five years previously, the sum received was £509,000 less, so that by the fall in values the country lost something like £2,082,000. The maximum price obtained in London during the last twenty years for Sydney-shipped wool was 26½d per lb. for scoured in 1875 and the lowest 12d. per lb. in 1886. Things have improved somewhat of late, but prices have not approached the maximum mentioned above. There is annually a large exportable surplus of sheep for meat amounting to about 4,850,000 head, but as yet but little has been done in the way of opening up a trade with Europe. More activity is now being shown, however, and there is every prospect of a large export of frozen and tinned meat taking place in the near future.

The profitable returns afforded by sheep-breeding induced many pastoralists to substitute sheep for cattle on their properties, and since 1875 there has been a decline in the number of cattle depastured. The change that has taken place in the relative positions of the two classes of stock may be gathered from the fact that in 1861 the value of cattle was about £7,000,000, and the value of sheep not half that sum, but in 1891 the value of the last-named stock had increased to £20,868,000, while the cattle were worth only about £11,459,000, although the price of the latter had risen while sheep had depreciated. The course of cattle-breeding is shown by the following figures, which represent the number of beasts depastured in each of the years named :—

| Year. | Head of Cattle. |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1860..... | 2,408,600 |
| 1870..... | 2,195,100 |
| 1880..... | 2,580,000 |
| 1892..... | 2,046,300 |

Dairy-farming has made great progress recently, more especially in the South Coast districts. In 1892 there were about 343,500 cows, which yielded approximately 123,000,000 gallons of milk. By the introduction of cream-separators, a saving of about a third of the quantity of milk necessary to make a pound of butter has, in many instances, been effected, and during the year 18,362,900 lb. of butter, and 5,506,100 lb. of cheese were made at factories or on farms. There is still a considerable importation of these articles, so that the industry might be profitably extended.

The abundant pastures which were available caused horse-breeding to become a promising enterprise in the early days of settlement, and excellent thoroughbred Arabians were introduced from India. All the good work that had been done in improving the strain was, however, destroyed at the time





of the gold discoveries, when the pick of the horses of the country were withdrawn to adjoining provinces. Since 1870 much of the lost ground has been retrieved, and all classes of horses have improved, but the increase in numbers is not nearly as rapid as that of population. There are at present about 459,800 horses, comprising 143,500 draughts, 196,300 saddle, and 120,000 light harness, and of these 65,000 are thoroughbreds. Australian horses are unsurpassed for hardiness, swiftness, and endurance, and there is a probability that before long a considerable market will be found for them in India and China.

Swine-breeding has been much neglected, and, owing to the high returns yielded by this stock, it is surprising that more progress has not been made. In 1860 there were 180,700 head in the country, and these had only increased to 253,200 in 1892. The greater number are kept on the dairy farms to consume the surplus milk, and about 6,009,609 lb. of bacon and hams were cured in the 12 months.

The total capital value of stock and pastoral property is estimated to be £153,991,000, consisting of £72,629,000 for land, £44,437,000 for improvements and plant, and £36,925,000 live stock.

There are 53,744 sheep and cattle runs, of which 36,146 were enclosed and 32,474 were also wholly or partially divided into paddocks. The total length of fencing was 1,689,550 miles valued at £70,623,000; and, for the purposes of watering stock, 31,933 dams have been constructed, worth £2,637,000, and 31,784 tanks excavated valued at £6,325,700, while 3,744 wells, said to be worth about £858,000, have been sunk or bored.

The number of persons permanently employed in pastoral pursuits is not more than 32,400, but in the wool season some 20,000 additional hands find work in connection with shearing or the transport of the wool. Many others besides those enumerated above are, however, engaged indirectly in this industry, in such occupations as the preparation of the clip for shipment and the numerous other matters incidental to the export of pastoral produce. Such produce amounts to about 60·89 per cent. of the total export trade of the country, if the value of gold is excluded. The progress made in stocking the country with sheep and cattle is shown in the following table:—

| Year. | Total stock expressed in terms of sheep. | Acres per sheep. | Sheep per inhabitant. |
|-------|--|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1860 | 32,719,200 | 6 | 94 |
| 1870 | 41,635,500 | 5 | 83 |
| 1880 | 65,158,400 | 3 | 88 |
| 1891 | 86,892,700 | 2 | 76 |

V. AGRICULTURE.

So great a variety of soil and climate is found within New South Wales that almost any kind of crop can be successfully cultivated. On the banks of the northern rivers sugar-cane is extensively grown, and there is every reason to believe that coffee, tea, and other semi-tropical products would do equally well. Maize flourishes in the valleys of the coastal region, and cereals and other crops of cold and temperate climes thrive on the high plateau of the great dividing range; oranges, lemons, and shaddock, and most European fruits grow luxuriantly, and in the Hunter valley and

Murray district the vine finds a natural home. Hitherto the superior attractions of pastoral pursuits have caused agriculture to be somewhat neglected, and in 1892 there were only 1,179,600 acres cultivated, and as 333,200 acres were under artificially-sown grasses, land under crop is reduced to 846,400 acres, or less than one acre for each inhabitant, and only 0·43 per cent. of the total area of the country. The estimated value of the agricultural produce for the season 1891-2 was £3,584,490, and regular employment is found in agricultural pursuits for about 61,300 men and 23,600 women. - It would appear, therefore, that there is an average of 10 acres under tillage to each person engaged, but many others are indirectly interested. The value of machinery and implements in use is approximately £1,478,849, or £1 14s. 11d. per acre of land cultivated.

The quantity of wheat grown in New South Wales does not yet nearly meet the demands of the people for food, and to cover the deficiency of the locally-grown crops, flour equivalent to 3,193,000 bushels of wheat, as well as 1,180,000 bushels of unmilled grain have for the last five years been annually imported. The relative condition of production and consumption can best be seen from the following table:—

| Period. | Average annual consumption per inhabitant. | Average annual home produce per inhabitant. | Deficiency per inhabitant. |
|---------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | Bushels. | Bushels. | Bushels. |
| 1862-66 | 6·1 | 2·5 | 3·6 |
| 1867-71 | 6·5 | 3·7 | 2·8 |
| 1872-76 | 6·4 | 3·7 | 2·7 |
| 1877-81 | 6·4 | 4·0 | 2·4 |
| 1882-86 | 6·6 | 3·9 | 2·7 |
| 1887-91 | 6·7 | 3·7 | 3·0 |

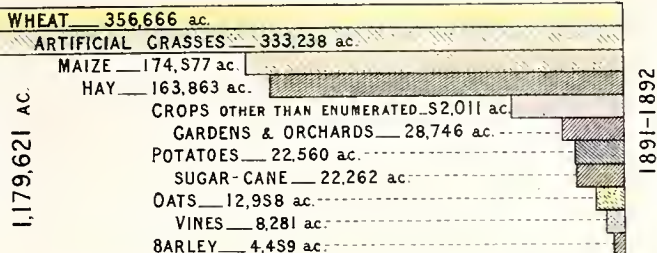
The average amount of flour manufactured annually has increased from 1,788,700 bushels twenty-five years ago to 5,593,400 bushels, the average for the last few years, representing 70 per cent. of all the flour used. The mean yield per acre of wheat since 1863 has been 13·10 bushels, the maximum average 17·37 being reached in 1887, and the minimum 4·75 bushels two years later.

The area devoted to the cultivation of maize has more than trebled during the last thirty years, and the quantity now grown is not only sufficient to meet the local demand, but affords a considerable margin for export. The average yield per acre since 1862 has been a little under 32 bushels, but there has been great variation, the produce ranging from 38 bushels in 1870 to under 22 bushels per acre in the following year. The cultivation of oats has been very irregular, chiefly on account of the uncertainty of sale in the metropolitan markets. The demand for oats depends largely on the price of maize, the copious supply of which has caused the area put under oats to remain practically stationary. The yield per acre has ranged between 11 and 25 bushels, the average for a period of thirty years being slightly under 20 bushels.

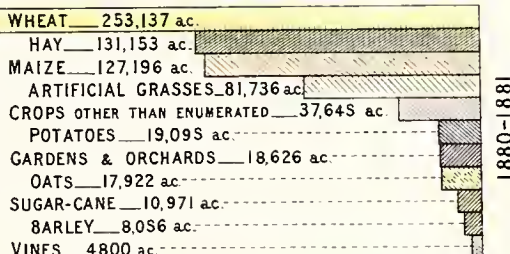
The amount of barley sown is at present very small, although there is a considerable annual import of this grain. It may appear strange that with the large area adapted for cereal-growing there should each year be a

AREA UNDER CULTIVATION

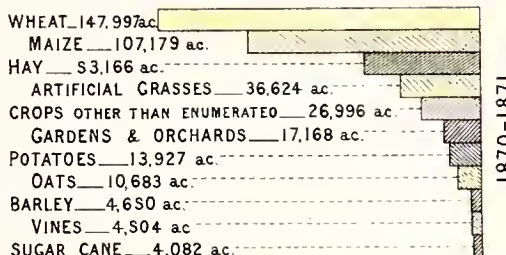
TOTAL AREA
CULTIVATED
1,179,621 ac.



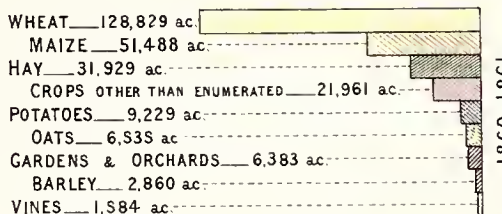
TOTAL AREA
CULTIVATED
710,337 ACRES



TOTAL AREA
CULTIVATED
426,976 ACRES



TOTAL AREA
CULTIVATED
260,798 ACRES



TOTAL AREA
CULTIVATED
145,717 ACRES

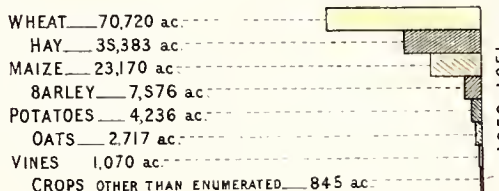


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SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.



deficiency between home production and the requirements of the population, but such is the case. The total consumption of grain of all kinds in New South Wales, calculated on the basis of the last ten years, amounts to 13·5 bushels per head of population, or just under 4 bushels in excess of the local harvests. The yield of wheat is nearly 39 per cent., and of oats and barley, 72 and 33 per cent. respectively below the demands of the home market, but the surplus production of maize reduces the average deficiency of the principal grain crops to 35 per cent., and the conditions are, however, so favorable that it is unlikely that this state of affairs will long continue, with the advent of population New South Wales should become an exporter instead of an importer of grain.

There is also room for extension in the cultivation of potatoes, for at present the quantity produced in the Colony is considerably less than half the amount required for local consumption. The cultivation of tobacco has increased very rapidly of late, as may be seen from the following table:—

| Year. | Area. | Production. |
|-------|--------|-------------|
| | Acres. | Cwt. |
| 1862 | 224 | 2,467 |
| 1872 | 567 | 4,476 |
| 1882 | 1,625 | 18,311 |
| 1892 | 886 | 9,314 |

The production for 1890–1 was equal to 1,186,300 lb., a great reduction on previous crops, and if an allowance of one-third is made for loss from damage and waste there remains 790,800 lb. to meet the demand for about 1,345,600 lb. But as the Australian leaf, owing principally to faulty curing, does not compare favorably with the American, the surplus cannot be profitably exported, and the deficiency in the last two crops was more than supplied by the accumulated stocks from the large crop of 1889 and 1890 still in the hands of growers and merchants. The cultivation of tobacco is for the most part in the hands of Chinese, few Europeans possessing the requisite skill and patience for the proper treatment of the leaf.

Sugar cane is extensively grown on the rich land in the low valleys of the northern rivers. Mills have been erected in the chief centres of cultivation, and the manufacture of sugar is now actively carried on. From plantations in full bearing from 25 to 32 tons of cane is cut per acre, the annual yield being worth from £7 10s. to £10. In 1891–2, 8,623 acres were cut, 188,258 tons of cane being obtained. Sugar cane is grown on nearly 900 estates, but about 20,000 more acres would have to be put under this crop in order to meet all the demands of the people for sugar.

The growing of vines for wine-making was first commenced in 1828, and this industry now promises to become one of the most important in the country. The area suitable for grape-vines is very large, for they thrive well and bear freely all over the Colony, except in the sub-tropical districts and the higher parts of the mountain ranges. Prizes were won by New South Wales wines at the Exhibitions of Paris, Philadelphia, Sydney, Bordeaux, Melbourne, Amsterdam, and more recently at the Indian and Colonial in London. During the last thirty years the average annual quantity of wine made per acre of vines has been 199 gallons, the maximum yield being 263 gallons in 1876, and the minimum 135 gallons ten years previously.

In 1892, 8,281 acres were under vines, 3,846 acres being devoted to wine making, yielding 913,107 gallons of wine. Fruit for market, weighing 3,694 tons, was also cut from 2,148 acres.

Oranges are extensively grown, and cover 11,370 acres. Over 5,000 dozen fruit have been plucked from an acre of trees in full bearing, and the production of oranges has already attained such proportions that there is annually a large surplus in excess of the requirements of the local markets.

A very large amount of orchard fruits are grown, but there is still room for extension of this form of cultivation, as nearly £350,000 worth of fruit is annually imported into New South Wales.

The progress of agriculture, and the increase in area put under the various kinds of crops can be seen from the following table:—

| Crops. | 1850-51 | 1860-61 | 1870-71 | 1880-81 | 1891-92 |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. | Acres. |
| Wheat | 70,720 | 128,829 | 147,997 | 253,137 | 356,666 |
| Maize | 23,170 | 51,488 | 107,179 | 127,196 | 174,577 |
| Oats | 2,717 | 6,535 | 10,683 | 17,922 | 12,938 |
| Barley | 7,576 | 2,860 | 4,650 | 8,056 | 4,459 |
| Other Grain | 335 | 475 | 1,655 | 1,806 | 1,017 |
| Potatoes | 4,236 | 9,229 | 13,927 | 19,095 | 22,560 |
| Sugar Cane ..... | ..... | ..... | 4,082 | 10,971 | 22,262 |
| Hay | 35,383 | 31,929 | 53,166 | 131,153 | 163,863 |
| Vines | 1,070 | 1,584 | 4,504 | 4,800 | 8,281 |
| Gardens and Orchards ..... | ..... | 6,383 | 17,168 | 18,626 | 28,746 |
| Other Crops | 510 | 21,486 | 61,965 | 118,075 | 50,994 |
| Total under crop | 145,717 | 260,798 | 426,976 | 710,337 | 846,383 |

VI. MINERALS AND MINING.

The mineral wealth of the Colony is enormous, comprising all the principal metals and other minerals of general utility. Already over £87,000,000 has been derived from the mines, and employment is afforded to 32,500 persons, who, with their families, represent a population of 162,000 souls. Gold was first discovered in payable quantities in 1851, and the thousands of men in the prime of life who flocked to the country in the hope of finding a fortune on the gold-fields, beneficially affected every form of industrial progress, and had a remarkable influence on the subsequent history of New South

Wales. The total quantity and value of the precious metal gained up to the end of 1891 will best be seen from the following table:—

| Period. | Amount. | Value. | Average per annum. |
|------------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| | Oz. | £ | £ |
| 1851-60 | 3,280,963 | 11,530,583 | 1,153,058 |
| 1861-70 | 3,542,912 | 13,676,102 | 1,367,610 |
| 1871-80 | 2,251,662 | 8,570,668 | 857,067 |
| 1881-91 | 1,324,897 | 4,856,135 | 485,614 |
| Total..... | 10,400,434 | 38,633,488 | 3,863,340 |

The largest nugget found was that taken at Burrandong, near Orange, in 1858; when melted it gave over 1,182 oz. of pure gold, valued at £4,389. It is probable that further discoveries of gold will be made, for it is estimated that the formations in association with which gold is generally met exceed 70,000 square miles in extent. Want of skill and the proper appliances, too, caused many mines rich in quartz and pyrites to be abandoned in the early days. Many of them have since been successfully worked, and quartz is rapidly taking the place of alluvial. Some idea of the great wealth hidden in many of these gold veins may be gathered from the yield of some of the mines at a place called Hill End. In January, 1873, 1·02 cwt. of gold was obtained at Beyers and Holtermann's mine from 10 tons of quartz, and a slab of vein stuff and gold weighing 630 lbs., and estimated to contain £2,000 worth of metal was also taken from the same mine. The mint returns for the gold obtained in this mine during 1873 from 415 tons of stuff were 16,279·63 oz., value £63,234 12s. Urokan's Company of the same place raised in the same year 436 tons 2 cwt. of stone which yielded no less than 24,079 oz. 8 dwt. of gold, worth £93,616 11s. 9d.

About 10,458 Europeans, and 708 Chinese, were engaged in the search for gold, 4,748 being on alluvial, and 6418 on quartz workings.

The authority to dig for gold costs only 10s. per year, and entitles its possessor to take up ground for mining, and to occupy a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in a mining township, or 1 acre outside a town, for a business site.

Up to 1882, very little silver had been obtained in the country, but since that year there has been an enormous increase in production. The value of silver and silver-lead ore extracted up to the end of 1891, was £11,302,095, £3,619,589 of which was won in the year last mentioned.

The fame of the Silverton and Broken Hill mines has become world-wide. In the Barrier Range District, which lies to the west of the River Darling, near the border of South Australia, silver deposits extend over an area of about 2,500 square miles. The deposits worked by the celebrated Broken Hill Proprietary Company are phenomenally rich. A complete smelting plant on the latest and most approved principles has been erected, and the services of competent managers, whose experience has been gained in the silver-mining centres of the United States, secured. From the commencement of operations in 1855, to the 31st May, 1892, the company treated 984,350 tons of silver and silver-lead ores, which yielded 36,512,445 oz. of silver, and 151,946 tons of lead, valued in London at £8,252,138. Dividends have been paid amounting to £3,880,000, bonuses amounting to £592,000, and

properties valued at £1,744,000 have been parted with; so that the total payments made to shareholders have reached £6,216,000. Many mines which give great promise are not fully developed, and a large increase in the production of silver, should there be a recovery in price, is not improbable. The 7,645 men mining for silver and silver-lead in 1891 procured the metal to the value of £486 each.

Tin is another important product of New South Wales. The total value of this metal obtained to date is £5,675,663, but a combination of dry seasons and bad prices has injuriously affected the tin-mining industry in the past. There are more Chinese than Europeans employed in tin-mining, the numbers being 1,146 and 805 respectively.

The disturbed state of the copper market, with prices inclining to fall, has seriously interfered with the development of the country's wealth in this metal. In spite of these disadvantages, over £3,481,923 worth of copper has been obtained up to the end of 1891, and a slight improvement in the market seems to have given fresh impetus to enterprise in copper-mining. About 481 hands are now engaged.

Although the country is rich in every description of iron ore, but little progress has been made in the development of these resources. That there is an enormous field open will be at once apparent when it is remembered that the average yearly import of iron and iron manufactures by New South Wales is about £2,030,000, and that of Australasia about £6,316,000, equivalent to 170,000 and 530,000 tons of pig iron respectively.

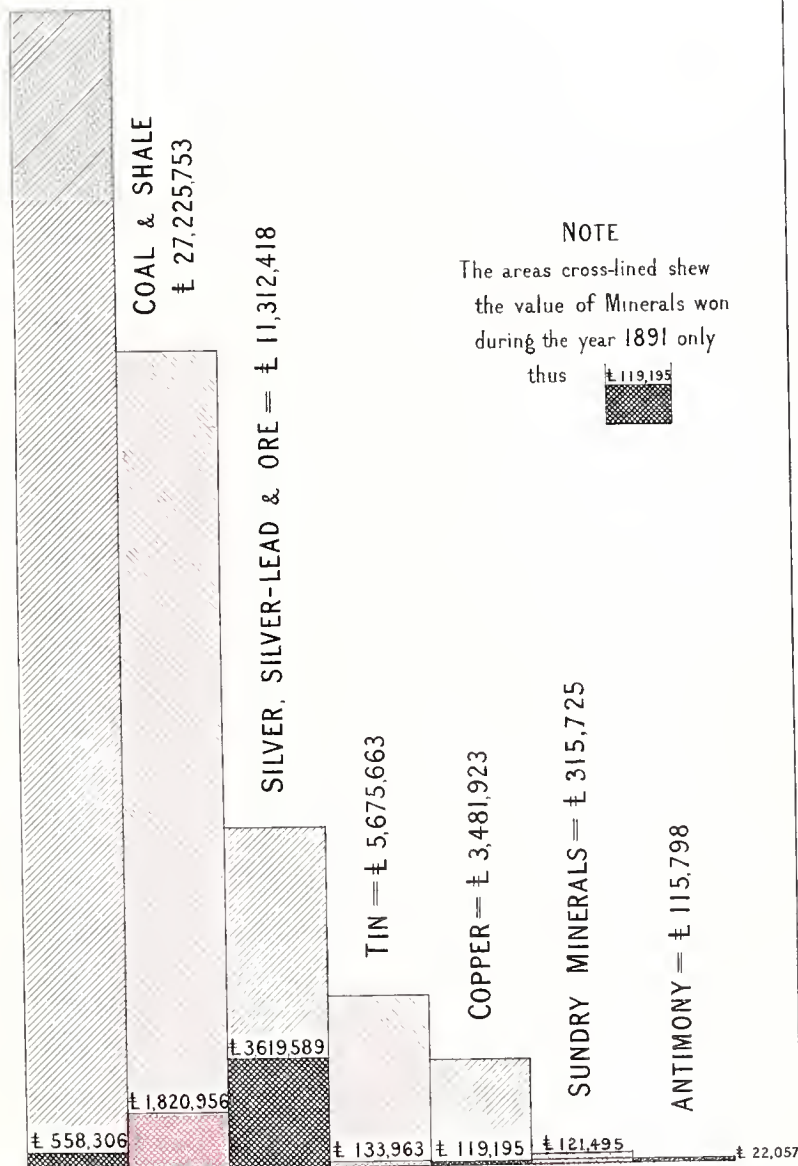
Many other metals, including antimony, manganese, bismuth, cinnabar, and platinum are also found. In non-metallic minerals the country is equally rich. Coal was first found in 1797 by a sailor named Clark, who had been wrecked upon the coast, and in the same year Lieutenant Shortland discovered coal deposits near the mouth of the River Hunter. In 1826 the Australian Agricultural Company obtained a grant of 1,000,000 acres of land and the sole right of working the coal seams which were known to exist in the Newcastle district, and several mines were opened up and profitably worked for a number of years. In 1847 the monopoly expired, and coal-mining has now become one of the principal industries of the country. Newcastle, the port of shipment, is provided with over two miles of wharves, furnished with cranes and shoots capable of loading 16,200 tons per day. Every week vessels leave the harbour coal-laden, not only for other parts of Australia, but for China, India, the Pacific Slope of North and South America, Mauritius, The Cape of Good Hope, and elsewhere. Excellent coal is also obtained from the seams worked in the Illawarra district and other parts.

Coal is distributed over an area of 23,950 square miles, and is now the most valuable mineral product of the colony. Already 53,902,781 tons have been raised, valued at £25,809,041, or a little over 9s. 6d. per ton. The following table shows the progress of the industry:—

| Period. | Tons Extracted. | Value. | Average per Annum. |
|---------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------|
| Prior to 1829 | 50,000 | £ 25,000 | £ 805 |
| 1829 to 1848 | 413,694 | 191,355 | 9,567 |
| 1849 to 1868 | 6,784,635 | 3,631,335 | 181,566 |
| 1869 to 1891 | 46,654,852 | 21,957,351 | 954,667 |

GOLD
L 38,633,488

MINERALS WON VALUE TO END OF YEAR 1891



NOTE

The areas cross-lined shew
the value of Minerals won
during the year 1891 only
thus



The increase in the export of coal has been very great :—

| Year. | Coal—Quantity. | Exported Value. |
|-------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Tons. | £ |
| 1830 | 42 | 51 |
| 1840 | 2,529 | 2,624 |
| 1850 | 31,608 | 15,558 |
| 1860 | 233,877 | 183,761 |
| 1870 | 578,389 | 267,681 |
| 1880 | 753,356 | 425,299 |
| 1891 | 2,514,368 | 1,306,630 |

There were 103 working coal mines in 1891, giving employment to 8,718 men below and 2,102 above ground. The total output was 4,037,929 tons, or 373 tons for each person employed in or about the mines, and 463 tons for each miner underground. The price of coal has fluctuated greatly. In 1854, at the time of the Crimean War, and while the gold fever was still raging, 20s. 6d. per ton was reached, but in 1849 only 6s. was obtained. The average price at the pit's mouth for the last 10 years has been 9s. 1d. per ton. The annual consumption of coal per head of population has increased greatly in New South Wales of late years. In 1876 it was 15 cwt., and in 1891 30 cwt., the advance being chiefly due to the increased demands for railway locomotives, steamships, manufacturing, gas, &c.

Kerosene shale is found in considerable quantities, the best qualities yielding 150 gallons of crude oil, equivalent to 18,000 cubic ft. of gas per ton, with an illuminating power of about forty-eight sperm candles. The mines were opened in 1865, and since that year 653,041 tons have been raised, worth £1,416,982, an average of £2 3s. 5d. per ton.

Diamonds and gem stones are to be found in various localities, but the mines have not yet been worked to any great extent. Marble, limestone, granite, building stone, fireclays, and all building materials are to be met with in great abundance.

VII. FORESTS AND FISHERIES.

Very nearly the whole surface of the country is covered by forests, the only exceptions being the extensive treeless plains clothed with salt bush, scrub, and grass, which are to be met with in the Monaro, Lachlan, and Murrumbidgee districts. A great variety of both soft and hard woods is available, and many of the specimens are of exceptional durability and

beauty. In the following table a comparison is drawn between specific gravity and strength of New South Wales timbers and the best known varieties of Europe and elsewhere.

| New South Wales timber trees. | Specific gravity. | Resistance to breaking or modulus of rupture. = s | European and other Foreign timber trees. | Specific gravity. | Resistance to breaking or modulus of rupture. = s |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|---|--|-------------------|---|
| Hardwoods— | | lb. per sq. inch. | | | lb. per sq. inch. |
| Spotted gum..... | .995 | 13,800 | Beech | .690 | 10,500 |
| Grey gum | .917 | 13,100 | Birch | .711 | 11,700 |
| Flooded gum | 1.178 | 14,800 | Bullet-tree..... | 1.046 | 19,000 |
| Red gum | .995 | 6,900 | Chestnut | .535 | 10,660 |
| Woollybutt | 1.022 | 12,700 | Ebony | 1.193 | 27,600 |
| Blackbutt | 1.067 | 13,700 | Elm | .544 | 7,900 |
| White ironbark | 1.177 | 16,900 | Fir, Red Pine..... | .48 to .70 | 8,300 |
| Grey ironbark | 1.182 | 17,900 | „ Spruce | .48 to .70 | 11,100 |
| Red ironbark | 1.224 | 16,300 | „ Larch | .50 to .56 | 7,500 |
| Forest oak | 1.208 | 15,500 | Greenheart | 1.001 | 22,000 |
| Turpentine | 1.109 | 11,700 | Kauri pine (New Zealand) | .579 | 11,000 |
| Stringybark | 1.141 | 13,900 | Lance wood..... | .675 to .101 | 17,350 |
| Blackwood | 1.129 | 10,300 | Lignum vitæ..... | .65 to 1.33 | 12,000 |
| Tallowood | 1.233 | 15,260 | Mahogany (Honduras) | .56 | 11,500 |
| Australian teak | 1.006 | 14,400 | „ (Spanish) | .85 | 7,600 |
| Mahogany | 1.201 | 14,500 | Oak (British) | .69 to .99 | 11,800 |
| Forest mahogany | 1.156 | 13,800 | „ (Dantzic)..... | .69 to .99 | 8,700 |
| Swamp mahogany..... | 1.216 | 12,100 | „ (American).... | .99 | 10,600 |
| White beech..... | 1.003 | 15,600 | Syeamore..... | .59 | 9,600 |
| Mountain ash | 1.065 | 11,500 | Teak (Indian)..... | .66 to .88 | 15,500 |
| Rosewood | 1.189 | 10,600 | Willow | .40 | 6,600 |
| Pine | .868 | 8,800 | | | |
| Ash | .753 | 13,000 | | | |

In spite of the great natural wealth of the forests, the reckless and indiscriminate destruction of the best species of trees which settlers and timber getters perpetrated until recently, threatened the future of the supply. The Government has now taken the matter in hand, and has restricted timber getters by stringent regulations. Several plantations have also been formed on forest reserves, and a large number of young trees are annually raised and distributed throughout the country.

The tidal waters of New South Wales abound with every description of edible fish, and the numerous bays and estuaries along the coast are peculiarly adapted for breeding grounds.

Oysters are excellent, and were very plentiful, but the beds have been seriously damaged by the indiscriminate manner in which they have been stripped. The fishing industry has not yet been properly developed, but the application of a little capital and intelligence should produce very remunerative results.

VIII. MANUFACTURES.

The development of manufacturing industries in New South Wales has been somewhat retarded by the superior attractions offered by mining and

MANUFACTORIES and Works of each Class, with Hands employed and Power used. Total, Metropolitan and Country Districts—1891.

| Classification of Manufactories and Works. | Average Number of Hands Employed. | | | | | | | | | | Machinery used. | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|----|---------|----|-----------|-----|---------|-------|---------------------|-----|--------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|-------|-----|
| | Managers. | | Clerks. | | Children. | | Adults. | | Outside Factory. | | Total Hands Employed. | | Number. | | | Horse-Power. | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | Steam. | Gas. | Other | Steam. | Gas. | Other | |
| Tanning Raw Materials, product of Pastoral Pursuits | 171 | 1 | 44 | 1 | 25 | .. | 1,704 | 9 | 75 | .. | 2,019 | 11 | 2,030 | 123 | 2 | 26 | 1,265 | 12 | 36 |
| Connected with Food and Drink, or the preparation thereof | 615 | 10 | 309 | 6 | 156 | 84 | 5,397 | 583 | 828 | 1 | 7,305 | 681 | 7,989 | 616 | 16 | 33 | 8,620 | 26 | 107 |
| Clothing and Textile Fabrics | 279 | 36 | 60 | 10 | 63 | 44 | 3,108 | 1,935 | 53 | 184 | 3,563 | 2,209 | 5,772 | 19 | 10 | .. | 280 | 51 | 10 |
| Building Materials | 608 | 1 | 230 | 1 | 51 | .. | 5,494 | 5 | 1,316 | .. | 7,699 | 7 | 7,706 | 431 | 6 | 40 | 6,853 | 42 | 176 |
| Metal Works, Implements, Machinery, Engineering, Railway Carriages .. | 392 | .. | 192 | .. | 130 | .. | 9,123 | 1 | 123 | .. | 9,960 | 1 | 9,961 | 296 | 16 | 21 | 3,843 | 69 | 46 |
| Docks, Slips, Shipbuilding, and Sail- making | 52 | 4 | 35 | 1 | .. | .. | 1,340 | 79 | .. | 6 | 1,427 | 90 | 1,517 | 32 | 2 | .. | 1,300 | 4 | .. |
| Furniture, Bedding, &c. | 89 | .. | 25 | .. | 16 | .. | 884 | 42 | 9 | 2 | 1,023 | 44 | 1,067 | 21 | 5 | .. | 168 | 19 | .. |
| Paper, Printing, Binding, Engraving, &c. | 323 | 13 | 251 | 9 | 114 | 25 | 3,359 | 388 | 126 | 8 | 4,173 | 443 | 4,616 | 35 | 90 | 6 | 494 | 386 | .. |
| Vehicles, Harness, Saddlery | 211 | .. | 35 | .. | 40 | .. | 2,220 | 5 | 3 | .. | 2,519 | 5 | 2,524 | 19 | .. | .. | 164 | .. | .. |
| Light, Fuel, and Heat | 72 | .. | 131 | .. | .. | .. | 1,171 | .. | 292 | .. | 1,666 | .. | 1,666 | 95 | 5 | 16 | 1,446 | 3 | 3 |
| Other works..... | 132 | 1 | 73 | 2 | 70 | .. | 1,461 | 206 | 38 | .. | 1,824 | 209 | 2,033 | 112 | 8 | 4 | 1,392 | 16 | 61 |
| | 2,994 | 66 | 1,385 | 30 | 655 | 153 | 35,271 | 3,253 | 2,863 | 201 | 43,178 | 3,703 | 46,381 | 1,849 | 100 | 146 | 25,825 | 628 | 439 |

About one-sixth of the whole population is at present dependent on the manufacturing interest. The number of hands given above will appear small when compared with the large establishments in Europe and America; but in New South Wales the sparseness of the population over a large portion of the country, and the nature of the works themselves, have brought into existence many small establishments. Work is, however, gradually being concentrated in large factories, and this movement will probably continue as the population increases. A large proportion of the factories in the country, it will be seen, are for the treatment of raw or semi-raw produce, the fruits of the agricultural, mining, and pastoral industries, and the preparation of food and beverages.

IX. COMMERCE.

The imports and exports of New South Wales, if measured by value, have increased nearly four-fold since 1860, or 20 per cent. more than the population.

The highest value of gross-trade was reached in 1891 when the total of imports and exports exceeded that of any previous year by more than £5,000,000.

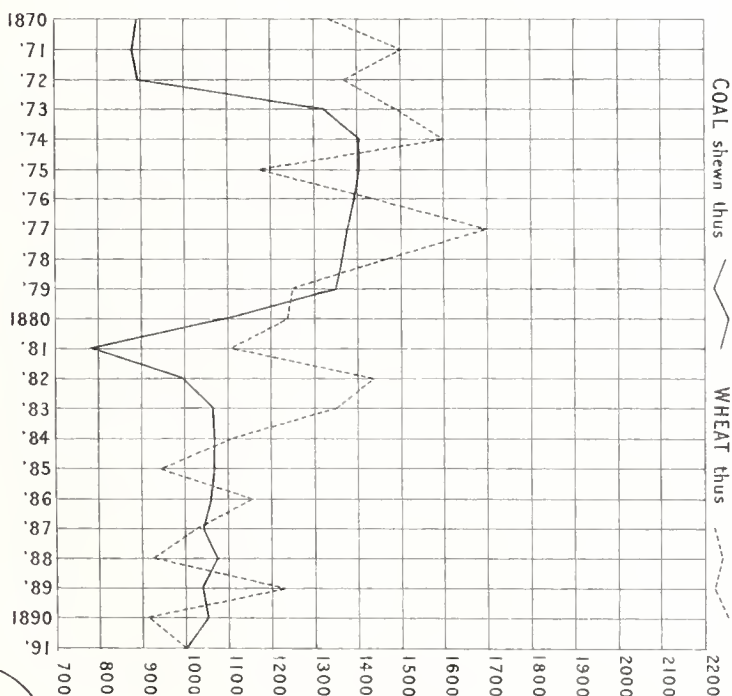
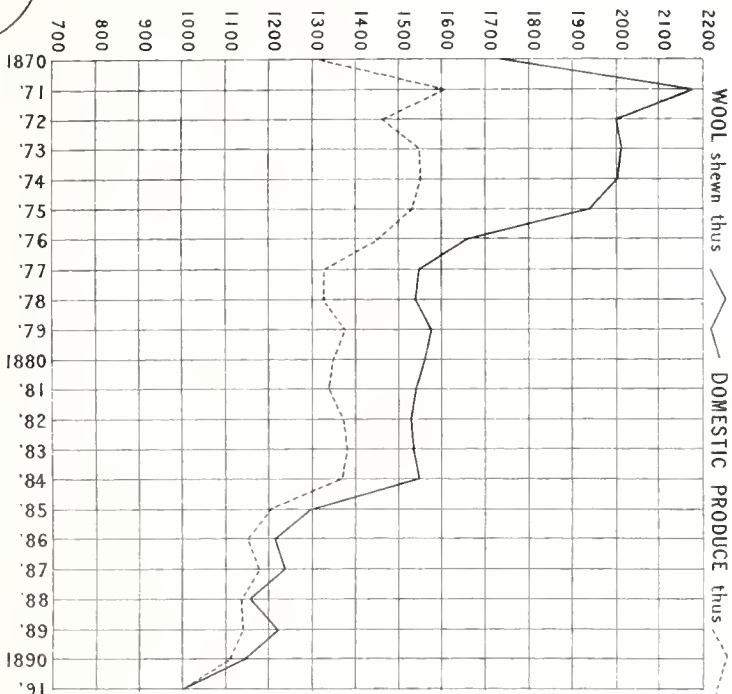
The value of the trade of the Colony at different periods has been as follows:—

| Year. | Imports. | Exports. | Total. |
|-------|------------|------------|------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| 1860 | 7,519,285 | 5,072,020 | 12,591,305 |
| 1870 | 7,757,281 | 7,990,038 | 15,747,319 |
| 1880 | 14,176,063 | 15,682,802 | 29,858,865 |
| 1891 | 25,383,397 | 25,944,020 | 51,327,417 |

The amounts given above only partially represent the growth of trade, for, during the period shown, the prices of both imports and exports have fallen greatly, so that the volume of trade has been to a corresponding degree increased.

The best available method of measuring the fluctuations in value and volume of the maritime trade is by a comparison of the declared value of the imports and exports and the tonnage of vessels entering and leaving New South Wales ports with cargoes. It is not claimed that in this way an exact measure of the decline in values can be ascertained, but the figures probably give a very fair indication of the course of prices and its affect on the commerce of the country. It must be borne in mind that during the period under review the character of vessels employed has changed, steamers have taken the place of sailing vessels to a great extent, and the passenger traffic has assumed much larger proportions. Many boats, too, do not fill up at New South Wales ports, but complete their loading in Melbourne or Adelaide. On the other hand, it is probable that there is no great variation from year to year in the proportion of vessels clearing with cargoes from New South

PRICE LEVEL PRICES OF 1891 = 1000



Wales ports and filling up elsewhere, and the other elements of possible error are all changes which have been effected gradually, while the improvements in ship-building and in package of goods has done much by increasing the cargo carrying capacity of vessels to counteract the effect on the computation of the increased accommodation now devoted to passengers. If the values, as disclosed by the Custom returns for the five years 1860-4, are made the standard of comparison, the fall in the average price of imports and exports as shown by the process sketched above has been as follows :—

| Period. | Imports. | Exports. |
|---------------|----------|----------|
| 1860-4 | 100 | 100 |
| 1865-9 | 73 | 70 |
| 1870-4 | 67 | 64 |
| 1875-9 | 53 | 56 |
| 1880-4 | 49 | 52 |
| 1885-91 | 40 | 42 |

Thus between 1860 and 1891, according to the official returns, goods to the value of £407,000,000 were imported, and the exports during the same period amounted to £326,000,000. If, however, the prices of 1860 had been maintained, the total value of the imports would have been about £1,017,500,000, and the exports £776,000,000, so that, although the country lost £450,000,000 from the fall in the price of exports, it gained £610,000,000 on its importations from a like cause, or a net gain of £160,000,000.

There is, however, another aspect in the fall in prices, which is by no means as pleasant as the one just taken. For money borrowed when values were higher, New South Wales is now compelled to pay so much more produce as interest. For instance, for every £100 lent at 5 per cent in or previous to 1860, it is necessary now annually to send to England about twice as much exports as in the year named. In this way, as prices fall, the interest burthen of loans contracted when prices were higher increases.

The small decline noticeable between the fourth and fifth period in the above table is due to the rapid rise in wool in 1880, when there was an advance of 3d. per lb. on the prices ruling in the preceding year. The increase in the proportion which wool forms of the total exports has been so gradual and regular that even the great preponderance of this article does not vitiate the calculations founded upon tonnage and aggregate value, and these remarks apply equally to the export of coal. If the movement in the wool market which is noted above is borne in mind, a striking confirmation of the substantial accuracy of the price-level is to be found in a comparison of the fluctuations in value of eleven of the principal articles of export, details concerning which are published in comparable form in the official returns. If the prices of these articles in 1860 are made the standard of comparison and the values then ruling are taken at 100, a decline of 31 per cent. is seen in the figures for 1870, a slight recovery to 28 per cent. in 1880, and then a

further decline in 1891 to 46 per cent. below the prices of 1860. The principal exports which have been most affected by the fall in prices can be seen from the following table, in which the fluctuations in value are traced:—

| Article. | 1860. | 1870. | 1880. | 1891. |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Cattle | 100 | 91 | 82 | 81 |
| Coal..... | 100 | 58 | 72 | 66 |
| Flour | 100 | 65 | 56 | 53 |
| Hides | 100 | 114 | 120 | 96 |
| Maize | 100 | 92 | 68 | 74 |
| Sheep | 100 | 66 | 39 | 40 |
| Sugar, refined..... | 100 | 74 | 59 | 47 |
| Do., raw | 100 | 81 | 76 | 47 |
| Tallow..... | 100 | 81 | 68 | 49 |
| Wheat..... | 100 | 61 | 51 | 41 |
| Wool | 100 | 62 | 68 | 46 |

The distribution of trade has not varied much from year to year, and Great Britain supplies about half of the imports, and nearly 52 per cent. of New South Wales exports go to the same country.

The proportion of the import trade with different countries is given below:—

| Imported from— | 1860. | 1870. | 1880. | 1891. |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. |
| Great Britain | 55 | 41 | 47 | 42 |
| Australasian Colonies | 26 | 41 | 41 | 44 |
| Other British Possessions ..... | ..... | 7 | 4 | 3 |
| Foreign States | 19 | 11 | 8 | 11 |

Of late years the trade with Germany, Belgium, and the United States shows a marked advance, the principal reason, doubtless, being the improved communication which is now afforded by the direct lines of steamers. This is equally true of the export trade, and each year more and more produce is finding its way direct to European and American markets without,

as formerly, first passing through and paying toll to England. The distribution of the export trade is as follows:—

| Exported to— | 1860. | 1870. | 1880. | 1891. |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. |
| Great Britain | 29 | 31 | 48 | 34 |
| Australasian Colonies | 52 | 47 | 46 | 45 |
| Other British Possessions | 9 | 17 | 3 | 2 |
| Foreign States | 10 | 5 | 3 | 19 |

The variations in the proportion of trade with Great Britain are more apparent than real, the cause in most cases being the navigable state or the reverse of the River Murray. If the river is in flood a large portion of the Riverina trade finds a nearer and cheaper port of shipment at Melbourne or Adelaide than Sydney, and the goods thus passing through Victoria and South Australia are credited to those colonies, although their actual destination is Great Britain. The value of the combined import and export trade of each of the principal countries has been:—

| Imported and exported to | 1860. | 1870. | 1890. | 1891. |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| United Kingdom | 5,643,024 | 5,693,346 | 14,062,298 | 19,435,695 |
| Australian Colonies..... | 4,391,596 | 6,948,114 | 13,326,960 | 22,730,348 |
| Other British Possessions | 669,372 | 1,970,686 | 842,839 | 1,374,918 |
| Total, British Empire..... | 10,703,992 | 14,612,146 | 28,232,097 | 43,540,961 |
| United States | 431,936 | 193,616 | 601,464 | 3,590,703 |
| Germany | 18,785 | ..... | 47,169 | 1,210,538 |
| France... .. | 14,990 | 60,357 | 33,003 | 500,920 |
| Belgium ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,227,610 |
| China..... | 367,115 | 275,928 | 372,973 | 283,093 |
| Other Foreign Countries | 1,053,487 | 605,272 | 572,159 | 973,592 |
| Total Foreign Countries..... | 1,886,313 | 1,135,173 | 1,626,768 | 7,786,456 |
| Total Trade | 12,590,305 | 15,747,319 | 29,858,865 | 51,327,417 |

The imports of New South Wales include a large variety of articles. In 1891 food and drink to the value of £4,650,143, and manufactured goods worth £10,979,696, at the rate of £4 1s. 4d. and £9 15s. 6d., respectively,

per inhabitant, were imported. The exports consist principally of raw or semi-raw produce, such as wool, coal, tin, silver, copper, coin, skins, tallow, and live stock. The nature of the trade can be easily determined from the following classification:—

| Classification. | During 1891. | |
|---|--------------|------------|
| | Imported. | Exported. |
| | £ | £ |
| Food and beverages, including breadstuffs | 3,658,980 | 908,237 |
| Wine, fermented and spirituous liquor | 991,163 | 101,715 |
| Live stock | 1,336,771 | 1,562,416 |
| Animal and vegetable products, including wool | 2,850,163 | 12,640,501 |
| Clothing and textile fabrics..... | 5,740,362 | 424,280 |
| Minerals and metals, raw or partly worked up, not including coal, coin, and bullion | 2,283,858 | 903,674 |
| Coal and coke..... | 442,944 | 1,313,861 |
| Specie and precious metals, including silver ore | 2,503,222 | 7,373,554 |
| Articles of education, art, and amusement | 1,259,975 | 232,088 |
| Manufactured articles not included elsewhere | 3,979,359 | 353,192 |
| Unclassified | 336,600 | 130,502 |
| Total | 25,383,397 | 25,944,020 |

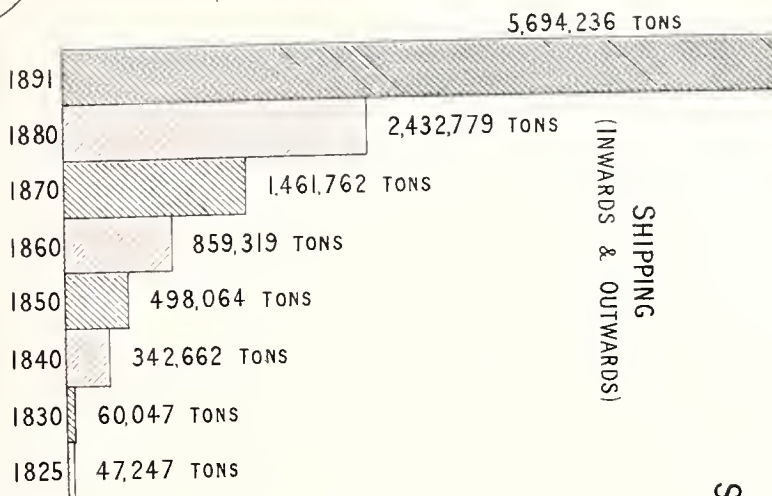
Wool forms by far the largest item in the export trade, and any variation in the price of this commodity in the European markets at once affects this country throughout. The growth of the wool trade since 1860 has been as follows:—

| Year. | Quantity Exported. | Value. | Percentage of total Exports. |
|-------|--------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| | lbs. | £ | |
| 1860 | 12,809,362 | 1,123,699 | 22 |
| 1870 | 47,440,610 | 2,741,141 | 34 |
| 1880 | 154,871,832 | 8,049,625 | 51 |
| 1891 | 331,886,720 | 11,036,018 | 42 |

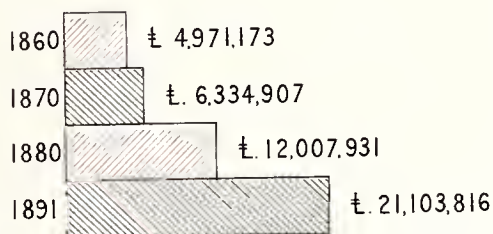
The large amount of coal exported lowers the average value per ton of exports, being an article of great bulk and small value. In 1891, 2,514,368 tons weight of coal was shipped, equivalent to 1,706,700 tons measurement, out of 2,872,338, the tonnage of the total exports. The value per ton of cargoes imported in 1891 was £9 12s. 5d. as compared with £6 4s. 2d. for exports, so that the latter, from the cause above described, were worth 37

SHIPPING AND COMMERCE

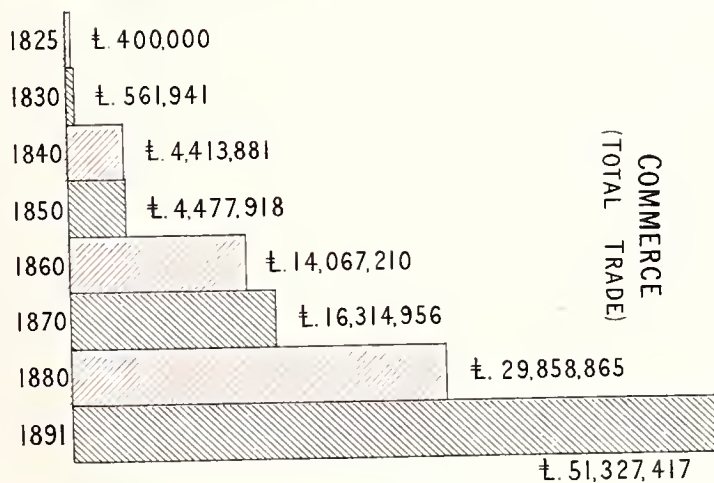
SHIPPING (INWARDS & OUTWARDS)



EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC PRODUCE



COMMERCE (TOTAL TRADE)



per cent. less per ton than the imports. The average value per ton, including tonnage of vessels with cargoes and in ballast was £7 9s. 3d. for imports, and £6 0s. 6d. for exports, but it varies greatly with different countries to which or from which the goods are exported or imported, as will be seen from the following table:—

| | Inwards. | | Outwards. | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Tonnage. | Value. | Tonnage. | Value. |
| | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. |
| Great Britain | 33 | 42 | 32 | 34 |
| Australasian Colonies | 53 | 44 | 52 | 45 |
| Other countries | 14 | 14 | 16 | 21 |

In 1891 the total importations of all classes of merchandise amounted to £22 3s. 11d. per inhabitant, and of this £17 19s. 3d. was retained for home consumption. In the year named the imports and exports nearly balanced, for the latter amounted to £22 13s. 6d. per head. Thus the total trade was equal to £44 17s. 8d. for each man, woman, and child in New South Wales. The increase of commerce has been very much more rapid than the increase of population, as will be seen from the figures given below:—

| Year. | Per Inhabitant. | | | |
|-------|-----------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| | Imports. | Exports. | | Total trade. |
| | | Domestic. | Re-exports. | |
| | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. | £ s. d. |
| 1825 | 9 0 10 | 3 0 3* | | 12 1 1 |
| 1830 | 9 11 8 | 3 4 6* | | 12 16 2 |
| 1840 | 24 14 5 | 11 9 7* | | 36 4 0 |
| 1850 | 8 2 5 | 9 7 6* | | 17 9 11 |
| 1860 | 21 19 0 | 10 17 11 | 3 18 3 | 36 15 2 |
| 1870 | 15 16 6 | 12 17 3 | 3 8 11 | 32 2 8 |
| 1880 | 19 9 0 | 16 9 7 | 5 0 10 | 40 19 5 |
| 1891 | 22 3 11 | 18 9 1 | 4 4 8 | 44 17 8 |

* Cannot be distinguished.

X. SHIPPING.

The records of the shipping trade of New South Wales are very meagre prior to the year 1825, when eighty-five vessels were entered inwards of an aggregate tonnage of 24,559, and seventy-five vessels outwards with a total tonnage of 22,688. Twenty-five years later 976 vessels arrived, amounting to 234,215 tons, and 1,014 vessels left the ports with a tonnage of 263,849 tons.

Since 1860 the growth shown by the records of shipping has been very rapid and regular, and the aggregate tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1891 amounted to over six times that of 1860:—

| Year. | Number of Vessels. | Nominal Tonnage. | Increase. Per cent. |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 1860 | 2,862 | 859,319 | ..... |
| 1870 | 3,924 | 1,461,762 | 70 |
| 1880 | 4,151 | 2,432,779 | 66 |
| 1891 | 6,121 | 5,694,236 | 134 |

The shipping trading to and from the country is almost entirely under the British flag, and in 1891 no less than 86 per cent. of the entire tonnage belonged to either Great Britain or British possessions. Determined efforts have, however, of late been made by shipowners of other nationalities to secure a share of the New South Wales trade, and well-found steamers, both passenger and cargo, run regularly for French and German companies.

Of the total tonnage set down as British the larger portion is owned in the colonies. In 1876 out of 1,969,457 tons of shipping entered and cleared under the British flag 1,293,813 tons, or 66 per cent., were Australasian; in 1881, out of 2,563,999 tons entered and cleared 1,543,431 tons, or 60 per cent., represented colonial shipping; while in 1891 the colonial shipping amounted to 3,029,067 tons out of a total of 4,902,607 tons, or 62 per cent.

Owing to the largeness of the export trade most vessels coming to our ports are enabled to obtain return freights, and many ships also come to fill up with coal or wool after discharging their inward cargoes in the other colonies of Australia. The tonnage outwards with cargoes has been as follows, in the years named:—

| Year. | Tonnage of vessels cleared with coal. | Percentage of vessels with cargoes to total tonnage cleared. |
|-------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1860 | 364,336 | 84 |
| 1870 | 750,938 | 97 |
| 1880 | 1,174,102 | 98 |
| 1891 | 2,789,382 | 97 |

In 1891 no less than 632,617 tons of shipping were entered at New South Wales ports in ballast, but only 82,956 tons left the colony without cargoes. Unfortunately, previous to 1876 no distinction was made between steam and sailing vessels in the records. In the year named the tonnage of steamers amounted to 43 per cent. of the total, a proportion which had increased 75 per cent. in 1891. It has been computed from the port entries of the world that steamers make fifteen trips and sailing vessels only three in the year, and although for vessels engaged on long passages these figures are too high, the relative proportions of voyages to Australia are about the same, and the change which has taken place in the character of shipping has been productive of great economy both of time and labour. Another change which has effected considerable saving has been the increase in the average size of vessels trading to New South Wales; the larger the vessels the fewer

hands required per ton to work her. The average size and the number of tons to each seaman are given below:—

| Year. | Average size of vessels. | Tons per seaman. |
|-------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Tons. | |
| 1860 | 300 | 17 |
| 1870 | 372 | 22 |
| 1880 | 586 | 23 |
| 1891 | 934 | 30 |

Thus, without allowing for the more frequent trips of steamers, three seamen now carry more than five did in 1860.

There are three graving docks, four floating docks, and five patent slips at Sydney. At Newcastle there are slips, and on the Clarence River a floating dock, besides which there are other docking and building yards in different parts of the colony for the convenience of Coasting vessels.

The new graving dock, built by the Government, is the largest single dock in the world, and capable of receiving vessels drawing 32 ft. of water.

In Sydney Harbour the water is deep enough to allow the largest vessels to be berthed alongside the wharves and quays, and powerful shipping appliances and roomy stores are found at all the principal wharves. Round Sydney Cove magnificent echelon wharves have been constructed, and on the south and west sides of Darling Harbour two jetties, capable of accommodating the largest ships, have been made, communicating directly with the railway, which has been carried to the water's edge. The total wharf frontage amounts to about six miles.

At Newcastle vessels of 4,000 tons can be safely berthed. The Government owns nearly all the wharfage, which extends over a length of about 10,500 ft. There are two slips, owned by private individuals, capable of taking up vessels of 300 and 1,200 tons respectively.

Stairths, cranes, and other coal shipping appliances have been erected at Wollongong, Bulli, Coal Cliff, and other ports. Wharves are found at all the principal places along the rivers of the Colony, and all ports with a trade of any importance have their jetties and facilities for shipping.

XI. INTERNAL COMMUNICATION.

In 1846 a meeting was held in Sydney to promote the construction of a line to connect the metropolis by rail with the city of Goulburn, and two years later a company was formed, with a capital of £100,000, having for its object the construction of lines to Parramatta and Liverpool, with a possible extension, in course of time, to Bathurst and Goulburn.

In 1850 the first sod of the first railway in the Australian colonies was turned, but the company did not prosper, and its property was taken over by the Government. Another company, started in 1853, with the object of constructing a railway from Newcastle to Maitland, fared no better, and the Government took over that line also. The works were carried on with vigour, and in September, 1855, the line from Sydney to Parramatta was declared open for public traffic, and fourteen years later the extension to Goulburn was completed.

During the twenty years which followed the opening of the first line, the progress of railway construction was very slow, and in 1875 the length of the lines in operation had only reached 437 miles, or at the rate of about 22 miles per annum. In the last twelve years the rate of increase has greatly improved; and, from the end of 1876 to the middle of the year 1892, 1,655½ miles of railway were opened for traffic, or a yearly average of 107 miles.

Railways have been one of the most important factors in the development of our resources since 1855, and at present represent nearly 22 per cent. of the wealth of the Colony. The growth of this form of industry has been as follows:—

| Year. | Length of line open for traffic. | Capital expended. | Gross earnings. |
|-------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | Miles. | £ | £ |
| 1855 | 14 | 515,347 | 9,249 |
| 1860 | 70 | 1,422,672 | 62,269 |
| 1870 | 339 | 5,566,092 | 307,142 |
| 1880 | 849 | 11,778,819 | 1,161,017 |
| 1892 | 2,185 | 33,312,608 | 3,107,296 |

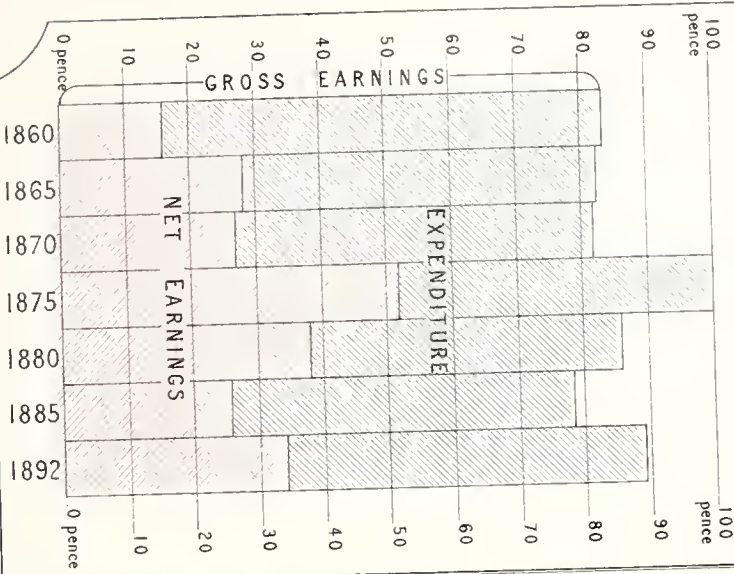
The saving effected by railways has been very great. Twenty-five years ago—before the lines extended far into the interior, and when carriage was mostly by road—the average cost of moving one ton of goods 1 mile was about 7½d.; ten years later the railways had reduced the rate to 3d., and now the average cost barely exceeds 1½d.

The progress made in the extension of railway facilities can be seen by comparing the number of inhabitants to each mile of line open, and the number of train miles run per head of population:—

| Year. | Persons to each mile of line. | Train miles run per inhabitant. |
|-------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1855 | 18,889 | 0 05 |
| 1860 | 4,979 | 0 51 |
| 1870 | 1,471 | 1 84 |
| 1880 | 874 | 4 46 |
| 1892 | 533 | 7 17 |

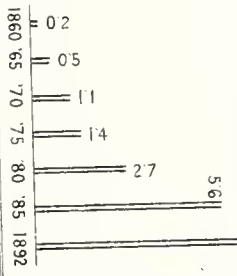
So that, judged by the length of line, the railway accommodation is ten times greater, in comparison to population, than thirty years ago. The increased facilities for travelling have increased the desire to travel, and in 1892 each inhabitant of the Colony made 17·1 journeys, as compared with 4·7 fifteen years previously. The extension of the suburban lines round the metropolis has, on account of the large number of persons who live now in the suburbs, and come to town every day to their work, tended to reduce the average length of each journey, which was 13·4 miles in 1879, and in 1892 had fallen to 5·46 miles; and, as a consequence, the average fare paid by each passenger has declined from 1s. 3½d. to 8d. But fares have been so reduced that a passenger can now go about thirteen miles for the same amount as he had in 1879 to pay to go one. The enormous increase which

GROSS AND NET EARNINGS PER TRAIN MILE RUN

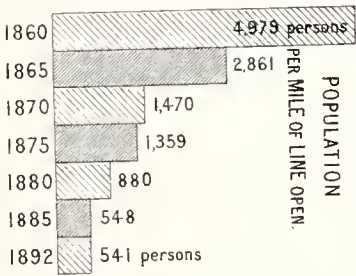


RAILWAYS

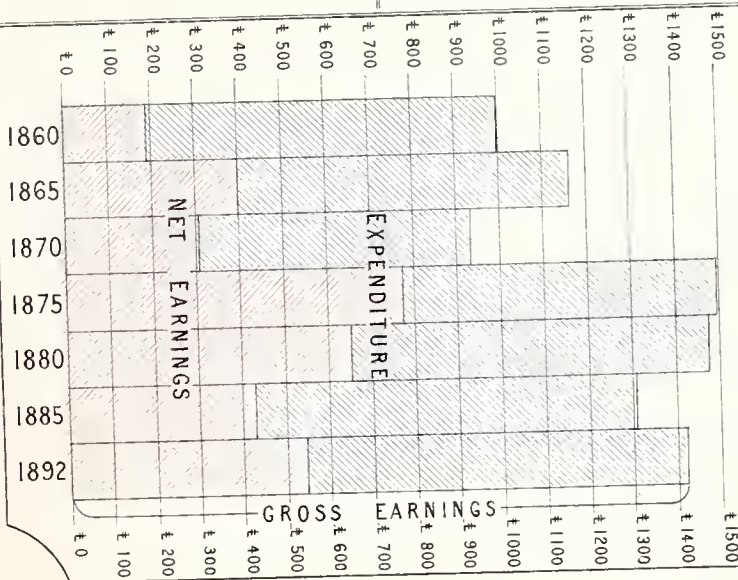
MILES OF LINE PER 1000 SQUARE MILES OF TERRITORY



POPULATION PER MILE OF LINE OPEN



GROSS AND NET EARNINGS PER AVERAGE MILE OPEN



has taken place in the passenger traffic under these conditions has been as follows :—

| Year. | Passengers carried. | Receipts. |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|
| | Number. | £ |
| 1855 | 98,846 | 9,093 |
| 1860 | 551,044 | 45,428 |
| 1870 | 776,707 | 117,854 |
| 1880 | 5,140,138 | 390,149 |
| 1892 | 19,918,916 | 1,189,231 |

Each member of the community spent 8s. more on railway travelling in 1892 than fifteen years previously, the actual receipts for passenger traffic per head of population having been £1 0s. 5d. in the first-named year, as compared with a little over 8s. 5d. at the commencement of the period. The development of the goods traffic has been no less rapid than that of passenger traffic. The weight of merchandise carried has been as follows :—

| Year. | Tonnage of Goods. | Earnings. |
|-------|-------------------|-----------|
| | | £ |
| 1855 | 140 | 156 |
| 1860 | 55,394 | 16,841 |
| 1870 | 766,523 | 189,288 |
| 1880 | 1,712,971 | 770,868 |
| 1892 | 4,296,713 | 1,918,065 |

The above figures, however, do not show the full extent of the increased business, for the average distance each ton of goods was hauled has of late years increased very considerably. In 1877 the average distance was about 34 miles, while in 1886, the last year for which particulars are available, it had reached nearly 54 miles. The average amount of money spent by each member of the community for the carriage of goods on the railways was, fifteen years ago, about 17s. 4d., as compared with £1 12s. 11d. in 1892, although in the interval freights had been reduced. The total cost of the 2,185 miles constructed to the 30th June, 1892, was £28,348,900, and the amount expended on rolling-stock, machinery, workshops and furniture, was £4,963,708, so that the total cost of all lines reached £33,312,608, an average of £15,246 per mile.

The railway system of the country is divided into three main arms, each being really a distinct system. The Southern line, which is the most important of the three, branches at Junee, running from Sydney 454 miles to Hay, the capital of the fertile district of the Riverina in one direction, and 412 miles to Jerilderie in another. There are also several minor branches which drain into the main line, while a line connecting the Southern and Western systems from Murrumburrah to Blayney gives almost direct communication between Melbourne and Bourke. Goulburn, a large town nearer to Sydney, will also be the recipient of several feeding branches. The Southern line places the four chief capitals of Australia—Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide—in

direct communication, and the mails from Europe can now be landed at Adelaide and forwarded overland to all parts of Victoria and New South Wales.

The Western system crosses the Blue Mountains by zig-zag lines, which are triumphs of engineering skill, and enters the Bathurst Plains, connecting the metropolis with the rich agricultural districts of Bathurst, Orange, and Wilcannia; and from Nyngan, 377 miles from Sydney, another branch to Cobar, the centre of a rich mining and pastoral country. There are also short lines between Mudgee and Wallerawang, Orange and Molong, and from Blacktown, via Windsor and Richmond, to the Hawkesbury River.

The northern system originally terminated at Newcastle, but the connection is now complete with Sydney, an iron bridge 2,896 ft. long spanning the Hawkesbury River. This line runs through Newcastle and the Hunter Valley to the rich district of New England, and it then traverses pastoral and agricultural country *via* the towns of Tamworth, Glen Innes, Armidale, and Tenterfield, until it joins the Queensland system. Various branches are projected, and besides the three systems mentioned above there is an independent line to the Illawarra district, a country rich in coal and agricultural produce. Schemes for the more complete connection of the suburbs with the city of Sydney by means of a system of suburban railways have for some time been under discussion, as also has the extension of the railway from its present terminus to the waters of Circular Quay.

For the first twenty-three years in the history of New South Wales there were no postal facilities whatever. The first post office was established in 1810, but the arrangements were of a most primitive character, and no real organisation was affected until 1825, when tenders were called for the conveyance of mails between the principal centres of population. The charges for transmission and delivery were extremely high, and varied according to the distance carried and the difficulty of access to the recipient. In 1849 the postage rates were reduced, and postage stamps like those at present in use were substituted for stamped covers which had existed since 1837. The operations of the post office have continued to increase, and the improved facilities afforded have had an important effect on the development of the resources and commerce of the country. The growth of business has been as follows :—

| Year. | Number of offices. | Number of letters. | Number of newspapers. | Number of packets and books. |
|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1860 | 287 | 4,230,761 | 3,668,783 | 83,736 |
| 1870 | 562 | 7,083,500 | 3,814,700 | 157,700 |
| 1880 | 927 | 21,732,500 | 13,791,803 | 711,600 |
| 1891 | 1,384 | 64,153,600 | 42,517,300 | 11,068,500 |

During 1891 about 8,235,000 miles were travelled by mail conveyance, the postal lines having an aggregate length of 31,257 miles, 16,370 being by coach, 2,255 by railway, 11,802 by horseback, 18 by tramway, and 812 by steamer. The Postal Department delivered 56 letters and 37 newspapers for each person in the Colony. It is worthy of note that in the last twenty-eight years the time of transit of the mails between New South Wales and Great Britain has been reduced by half.

In 1852 there was a contract for a monthly steam mail service between Sydney and England, the time of passage permitted being fifty-eight days.

LETTERS CARRIED

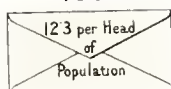
POST-CARDS INCLUDED

1850



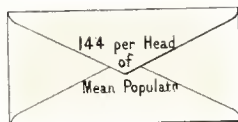
Nº 842,309

1860



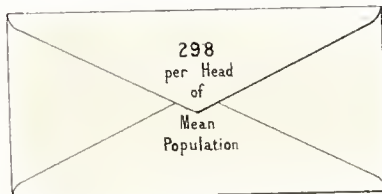
Nº 4,230,761

1870



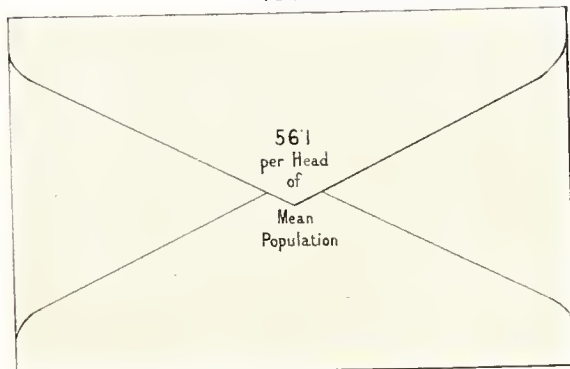
Nº 7,083,500

1880



Nº 21,732,500

1891



Nº 64,153,600

But the steamers were very irregular, and scarcely ever up to time. In 1866 a new route was opened *via* Panama, but after two years the company holding the contract failed. In 1869 a mail service was inaugurated *via* San Francisco, and more recently the Suez service has been increased by the addition of the Messageries Maritimes and the North German Lloyds steamers to those of the Peninsular and Oriental and Orient companies as letter carriers. The time occupied in the conveyance of mails averages from thirty-four to thirty-five days, and the steamships of the various lines arrive with great punctuality.

The telegraphic business shows an increase proportionate to that of the Post Office. The length of wire in operation, and number of messages sent, being as follows in the years named :—

| Year. | Miles of Wires in Operation. | Number of Telegrams Transmitted. |
|-------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1860 | 1,616 | 74,204 |
| 1870 | 5,214 | 173,812 |
| 1880 | 13,188 | 1,319,537 |
| 1891 | 24,780 | 3,578,807 |

So that about 9,800 telegraphic messages are despatched each day, or 3.13 telegrams during the year for each inhabitant. The first line of electric telegraph was opened in 1858, and was 22 miles in length. Now there are 674 stations, and 11,697 miles of line in operation.

XII. WEALTH: ITS COMPONENTS AND INCREASE.

The wealth of the people of New South Wales has increased marvellously. If the value of public works and unsold lands of the State is omitted the progress has been as follows :—

| Year. | Amount of Private Wealth. | Increase in Period. |
|-------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1788 | Country first colonized. | |
| 1813 | £1,000,000 | £1,000,000 |
| 1838 | 18,000,000 | 17,000,000 |
| 1863 | 69,000,000 | 51,000,000 |
| 1891 | 407,400,000 | 338,400,000 |

If to this is added the value of the public and municipal estate, £179,300,000, the total public and private wealth of the Colony is £586,700,000, or £523 per head of population.

The items constituting the public wealth are shown thus :—

| | £ |
|---|---------------------|
| Railways, tramways, telegraphs, and waterworks, sewerage, and other revenue-yielding works..... | 44,958,000 |
| Public works and buildings not yielding revenue | 20,318,000 |
| Unsold Crown lands | 107,624,000 |
| Roads, buildings, and other works in municipalities | 6,400,000 |
| | <u>£179,300,000</u> |

The Government railways are valued at £39,975,000, for already the sum of £33,057,500 has been expended on construction, and in addition there is a large amount of State lands which have been used for railway purposes, and not specially paid for.

The public telegraphs are worth about £743,700, and the works in connection with water supply and sewerage are estimated at about £4,240,000. The present value of the public roads and bridges of the Colony, outside municipalities, is said to be £10,382,000, and of works for the improvement of the navigation of harbours, wharves, dredging plant, &c., about £9,930,000, making a total value of all public property constructed out of general revenue or loans of, approximately, £65,271,000. From the foregoing table it will be seen that the public estate is by far the most important item in the estimate of the public wealth. The area of land which still remained in the possession of the State, being 151,124,000 acres, of which 148,122,200 acres were leased at a rental of £814,850 per annum. The remaining 3,001,800 acres contain some of the best land in the Colony. If an all round value of 12s. 9d. per acre, a by no means extravagant estimate, is taken, the unsold State lands are worth about £94,400,000, and in addition to this £13,224,000 is still owing to the State by purchasers of land under a system of deferred payments. The next item given in the estimate of public wealth is municipal, which includes roads and municipal works and buildings. The assets of the City of Sydney alone amount to £2,671,400, the principal items contained being made roads, £830,000; markets and lands, £630,000; town hall, £350,000; and wharves, £410,000. The value of made roads and streets in other municipalities is over £1,680,000. The value of private property in the Colony is estimated as under:—

| | £ |
|---|--------------|
| Land..... | 173,352,000 |
| Houses and permanent improvements..... | 129,800,000 |
| Live stock | 35,187,000 |
| Personal property and household furniture | 14,637,000 |
| Machinery and implements of trade | 9,723,000 |
| Coin and bullion..... | 9,726,000 |
| Merchandise | 14,730,000 |
| Shipping owned in the Colony..... | 1,910,000 |
| Mines, including plant | 18,340,000 |
| Total private wealth | £407,405,000 |

There are in private hands, outside Municipalities, 43,276,500 acres of land, valued at £105,204,600, on which about 103,000 houses, worth £11,830,000, have been built. The mineral lands are valued at £18,340,000, and the permanent improvements on both purchased lands and lands rented from the State are worth £72,982,100.

The live stock, valued in the estimate, includes 50,107,000 sheep, 1,741,600 horned cattle, 430,800 horses, and 238,600 swine.

Personal property (such as clothing, jewellery, pictures, carriages, &c.) represents, as a rule, about 50 per cent. of the value of the house, but in the above estimate it is taken at only 16 per cent. of the value of house property.

With regard to merchandise the value of goods and stocks of all kinds in stores and shops, or at the place of production, is assumed as equal to six months' imports and exports combined, and has been taken above at half the total trade of the Colony for the year.

In the case of shipping the average value per ton is approximately £25 for steamers and £12 10s. for sailing vessels.

The amount of property passing through the Probate Court each year affords an indirect method of gauging the wealth of a country, although the extraordinary variations produced by the deaths of one or two exceptionally wealthy persons make the figures unreliable and useless except as a side light on a more detailed valuation. The number of deaths registered in the Colony during the last five years has been 71,489, and the value of property claimed £26,369,571, or £234 per head. Property for Probate purposes is generally undervalued; and, if 10 per cent. is allowed for this undervaluation, and the increment for the last few years is added, the amount of private wealth arrived at by this means will agree very closely with the estimate above given. If the five years (1868-72) during which probate duties were imposed, are compared with the five years ending 1890, the result is as follows:—

| Period. | Number of Persons who Died. | Property Left. | Average per Head. | Apparent Total Wealth. |
|---------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ |
| 1868-72 | 34,349 | 3,213,851 | 94 | 46,900,000 |
| 1886-90 | 71,489 | 26,369,571 | 369 | 455,500,000 |

This shows an increase of £408,600,000 in the wealth of the people in the twenty-two years, or an annual ratio of increase of 10·89 per cent. as compared with 4·10 per cent., the annual advance of population.

An examination of the probate returns indicates that the property of the country has accumulated in the hands of about 41 per cent. of the adult male population. That is to say that of every 100 men in New South Wales 41 possess property to the value of at least £100, which is a much wider distribution of wealth than is to be met with in most older countries.

XIII. FINANCES.

The growth of public expenditure has been more than twice as fast as that of population since 1825.

| Year. | Amount. | Per inhabitant. |
|-------|------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. |
| 1825 | 93,000 | 2 16 6 |
| 1830 | 102,100 | 2 6 6 |
| 1840 | 570,800 | 4 13 6 |
| 1850 | 567,200 | 2 4 3 |
| 1860 | 1,322,000 | 3 17 2 |
| 1870 | 2,633,000 | 5 7 8 |
| 1880 | 5,560,000 | 7 12 7 |
| 1891 | 10,478,800 | 9 3 3 |

The increase which has taken place during recent years is to a large extent due to the very rapid progress of the railways of the country, which, although they bring an increased revenue, necessitate a much larger outlay for working expenses and maintenance. In 1880 there were only 850 miles of railway line in operation, while in 1891 the length had grown to 2,182 miles. The amount spent on education by the State has also increased greatly since 1880, when State aid to denominational education was abolished, and, although not as large now as five years ago, the annual charge on the general revenue for public instruction is very much higher than previous to the passing of the Act referred to. The expenditure in 1880 and 1891 may be classified as follows :—

| Service. | Amount. | | Proportion of Total Expenditure. | |
|---|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| | 1880. | 1891. | 1880. | 1891. |
| | £ | £ | per cent. | per cent. |
| Railways and Tramways | 838,559 | 2,357,032 | 15·08 | 22·49 |
| Post and Telegraph | 396,301 | 694,634 | 7·13 | 6·63 |
| Public Instruction..... | 385,567 | 769,746 | 6·93 | 7·35 |
| Immigration | 43,522 | 4,564 | 0·78 | 0·04 |
| Interest on Debt and Extinction of Loan | 715,994 | 1,905,016 | 12·88 | 18·18 |
| Other Services | 3,180,136 | 4,747,681 | 57·20 | 45·31 |
| | 5,560,079 | 10,478,673 | 100·00 | 100·00 |

The large proportion of the public expenditure required to pay interest on the public debt is not really as serious as it at first sight appears, for, as will be presently shown, a considerable part of the debt charges are recouped out of the earnings of works constructed with borrowed money. At one time the expenditure on immigration was an important item in the country's finances, and in 1884 over £120,000 was spent by the State in helping settlers to New South Wales shores; but the Government have now ceased to assist immigrants, and the amount appearing above is only to complete contracts. The increase in the expenditure for postal and telegraphic services has no significance beyond showing the progress made in these branches, for every increase in outgo is counterbalanced by an equivalent increase in income. During the years immediately following 1878 there was annually a substantial surplus of revenue over expenditure—the total amount so received being £6,400,400. The public revenue has changed considerably in character since 1860, as will be seen from the table below :—

| Proportion of Revenue from. | 1860. | 1870. | 1880. | 1891. |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. | per cent. |
| Taxation | 54·3 | 49·7 | 28·8 | 29·0 |
| Land | 24·9 | 22·7 | 33·5 | 22·6 |
| Services..... | 11·5 | 21·3 | 32·5 | 45·9 |
| Miscellaneous | 9·3 | 6·3 | 5·2 | 2·5 |

Thus, the revenue derived from taxation, which was over half of the total receipts in 1860, is now not one-third. The most remarkable feature in the table is, however, the enormous increase in the revenue for services rendered, which now forms 46 per cent. of the total public income as compared with 11·5 per cent. at the commencement of the period. The total revenue from all sources, with the exception of loans, has been as follows:—

| Year. | Amount. | Per Inhabitant. |
|-------|------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. |
| 1825 | 71,700 | 2 3 2 |
| 1830 | 104,700 | 2 7 8 |
| 1840 | 683,100 | 5 12 0 |
| 1850 | 575,800 | 2 5 0 |
| 1860 | 1,319,800 | 3 17 0 |
| 1870 | 2,102,700 | 4 5 9 |
| 1880 | 4,912,000 | 6 15 5 |
| 1891 | 10,036,185 | 8 15 6 |

Although the proportion which revenue derived from taxation bears to the total receipts has diminished, the ratio of taxation per head of population has increased by 9s. 3d. since 1860.

| Year. | Taxation. | Per Inhabitant. |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. |
| 1860 | 710,200 | 2 1 9 |
| 1870 | 1,043,900 | 2 2 7 |
| 1880 | 1,417,300 | 1 19 1 |
| 1891 | 2,916,344 | 2 11 0 |

Considering the largeness of the public expenditure, the people of New South Wales are very lightly taxed, for the whole amount collected is under 5 per cent. of the estimated annual income of the inhabitants.

There are four main divisions of taxation, the receipts from each of which in 1891 were as follows:—

| | £ | Per cent. |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Customs | 2,168,265 | 74·3 |
| Excise | 288,198 | 9·9 |
| Stamps | 326,778 | 11·2 |
| Licenses | 133,103 | 4·6 |

In 1861 Custom Duties averaged 7·3 per cent. on the value of all imported merchandise; but in 1891 the collections amounted to 8·5 per cent. of the total importations.

The state of taxation through the Customs House has been as follows:—

| Year. | Amount Collected. | Per Inhabitant. | Percentage of Total Imports. |
|-------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. | |
| 1860 | 555,100 | 1 12 7 | 7·3 |
| 1870 | 853,800 | 1 14 10 | 11·0 |
| 1880 | 1,188,900 | 1 13 2 | 8·3 |
| 1890 | 2,168,265 | 1 17 11 | 8·5 |

During the last year given £869,631 was collected on spirits of different kinds, and £120,326 on tea. The duty on beer yielded £81,003, and on tobacco £277,707.

The income derived from lease or sale of the Crown Lands forms a large proportion of the total revenue; but the sum obtained has varied greatly, ranging from 19s 7d. per inhabitant, in 1871, up to £5 2s. 11d. six years later. The land revenue for 1891 may be classed as follows:—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| | £ |
| Sales | 1,163,338 |
| Interest on conditional sales ... | 107,174 |
| Pastoral occupation ... | 828,785 |
| Mining occupation ... | 53,451 |
| Miscellaneous receipts ... | 113,888 |
| Total | £2,266,636 |

The revenue received for services rendered exceeds that derived from either taxation or land. In New South Wales the services controlled by the State are exceptionally important, and the income from this source has increased rapidly and steadily for many years. Taking the same periods as have been adopted in the other tables the growth has been as follows:—

| Year. | Amount. | Per Inhabitant. |
|-------|-----------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. |
| 1860 | 196,527 | 0 11 5 |
| 1870 | 481,417 | 0 19 7 |
| 1880 | 1,594,082 | 2 3 0 |
| 1891 | 4,604,918 | 4 0 6 |

So far, the revenue and expenditure of the Central Government has been exclusively dealt with, but there is also a large amount of money collected and distributed each year by municipal institutions. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to introduce local government into New South Wales previous to the passing of the Act in 1842, which established the Municipal Council of the City of Sydney. The first council was not altogether

satisfactory, and after a few years' trial, it was superseded by three Commissioners. Three years after the appointment of the Commissioners a new city council was created, and since 1858 the government of Sydney has remained in the hands of aldermen elected by the ratepayers.

In 1858 the benefits of local administration of local affairs were also extended to the more densely populated parts of the country, and in 1867 it was enacted that any district the inhabitants of which might so desire was at liberty to become incorporated for the purposes of local government. At the present time there are in New South Wales 163 districts which have availed themselves of this privilege. Contained within their limits is rateable property of the capital value of £144,284,800, upon which rates to the amount of £436,740 are levied.

The increase in value of property within municipalities has been as follows:—

| | 1870. | 1880. | 1892. |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| Number of Districts..... | 48 | 90 | 162 |
| Capital value of property | £30,252,740 | 70,762,540 | 144,284,800 |
| Annual value of property | £1,512,637 | 3,538,127 | 7,918,240 |

The total expenditure during 1891–2 was £1,088,774, which was distributed as stated below:—

| | £ | Per cent. of total Expenditure. |
|--|------------|---------------------------------|
| Salaries and office expenses | 74,554 | 6·9 |
| Improvement works | 649,356 | 59·6 |
| Lighting | 69,531 | 6·4 |
| Water (country) | 20,972 | 1·9 |
| Interest on loans | 89,581 | 8·2 |
| Sinking funds for repayment of loans | 46,903 | 4·3 |
| Miscellaneous charges | 137,877 | 12·7 |
| Total | £1,088,774 | 100·0 |

To meet this expenditure £417,351 was raised by general rates; £89,865 by special rates for such services as lighting, water supply, and sewerage; £168,306 as grants from the revenues of the Central Government; and £12,394 from contributions by inhabitants towards the cost of special services; and £180,500 from other sources. The balance between income and disbursements was made up from money borrowed for improvement works. In addition to the ordinary municipalities there is the Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Board, and if its revenue is added it will give £1,115,550, as the total amount of taxation for municipal purposes, equivalent to £1 12s. 5d. per head of population residing within the boundaries of incorporated districts.

Turning from the revenue collected for public purposes it may be well to consider the private income of the people who have to provide the money.

The income of persons living or holding property in New South Wales is estimated at about £62,950,000 per annum, equal to £57 per head, derived from the following sources :—

| | £ |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Pastoral Pursuits | 13,400,000 |
| Dairy Farming | 1,400,000 |
| Agriculture and Forestry | 5,650,000 |
| Mining | 4,450,000 |
| Manufactures | 5,700,000 |
| Professions | 2,700,000 |
| Trade and Commerce | 8,000,000 |
| Domestic Services | 4,680,000 |
| Construction | 5,870,000 |
| Transport | 1,800,000 |
| Public Service | 1,620,000 |
| Rents of Dwellings, &c. | 6,120,000 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,560,000 |

It will be seen that the amount obtained from productive pursuits is equivalent to about 48·6 per cent. of the whole. As has been shown the revenue of New South Wales is very large as compared with its population, but it was not to be expected that all the requirements of a young and rapidly increasing community could be met from ordinary income.

In order to make progress possible, the hitherto untouched continent had to be opened up. Railways and other public works of an expensive character had to be constructed, and to do this money had necessarily to be obtained on the security of the general revenues of the country. The first loan of £49,500 was issued to provide funds with which to encourage and assist immigration in 1840, when labour was urgently required ; and during the following years several other loans were raised for similar purposes, but they were all paid off within a few years out of ordinary income. In 1851, however, the loan policy really commenced, and at intervals since that year money has been raised in this way to the extent of £58,591,303. The public indebtedness of the country has increased of late years very rapidly, as will be seen from the following table :—

| Year. | Public debt. | Per inhabitant. | Increase per cent. |
|-------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. | |
| 1860 | 3,830,230 | 10 19 9 | ..... |
| 1870 | 9,681,130 | 19 8 3 | 152 |
| 1880 | 14,903,919 | 20 1 9 | 54 |
| 1891 | 50,995,433 | 43 15 3 | 242 |

A casual glance at the above figures might seem to justify the suggestion that New South Wales has too deeply mortgaged her resources, and that the annual interest, charge, and expense of her indebtedness is an inconveniently heavy burthen. But the indebtedness of New South Wales cannot be viewed in the same light as the borrowings of most other countries. In the first place, almost all the borrowed money has been spent on works of public utility, and of a reproductive nature ; and, secondly, there is no war debt, and the rapidity of the progress that has been made in every phase of material development is unique. The total expenditure from loans at the

close of 1891 was £49,162,507, which is distributed among the following classes of services:—

| | £ |
|---|------------|
| Railways and Tramways | 35,582,392 |
| Electric Telegraphs | 775,464 |
| Harbours and Rivers Navigation | 3,010,888 |
| Roads and Bridges | 701,282 |
| Immigration | 569,930 |
| Sewerage | 1,701,411 |
| Water Supply | 3,867,788 |
| Fortifications and Military Works | 1,018,679 |
| Other Public Works..... | 1,934,673 |

It will be seen that under six of the above heads £43,627,789, or 88·7 per cent. of the entire public debt, has been spent upon works which are at the present time of a directly reproductive character, while from many of the other items in the classification a return is indirectly received, although the exact monetary value of the benefit derived from such works as roads and bridges, and harbours and rivers navigation, cannot be computed.

The share of the annual interest payable on the debt incurred for the construction and equipment of railways and tramways amounts approximately to £1,356,045; the net earnings during 1891-2 from these services were £1,249,543, leaving a deficiency of £106,501 to be made up by taxation. Water supply and sewerage works returned a net revenue of £183,467, as a set-off against an approximate charge for interest on the capital cost of £208,242, thus leaving a small deficit. It will thus be seen that in New South Wales, during 1891, the sum of £1,433,010 was available from works of a reproductive nature, constructed out of loans, which when deducted from the total interest payable reduces the charge on the general revenues of the country to £440,573, equal to a capital debt at the rate paid of £11,560,561.

XV. BANKING.

The banking power of New South Wales—that is to say, the aggregate of capital and deposits—is now more than five times as great as it was in 1860:—

| Year. | Amount. | Per inhabitant. |
|-------|------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1860 | 10,969,000 | 32 |
| 1870 | 13,777,000 | 28 |
| 1880 | 27,414,000 | 37 |
| 1892 | 53,704,100 | 46 |

It must, however, be borne in mind that some of the money included above is not used exclusively in the country. The extent of the growth of the operations of banking institutions may be gathered from the following table:—

| Year. | Liabilities. | Assets. |
|-------|--------------|------------|
| | £ | £ |
| 1860 | 6,481,000 | 8,922,000 |
| 1870 | 7,199,000 | 10,946,000 |
| 1880 | 19,335,000 | 24,399,000 |
| 1892 | 36,984,400 | 51,429,800 |

The advances made by the various banks of issue to their customers amounted in 1860 to under £6,000,000, or about £17 12s. 3d. per inhabitant; in 1892 over £42,600,000 was so lent, equivalent to £36 11s. 2d. per head. During the same period the money received on deposit has increased more than sevenfold, the interest allowed to depositors having only been reduced one-half per cent. on the rates of 1860:—

| Year. | Deposits. | Increase. |
|-------|------------|-----------|
| | £ | Per cent. |
| 1860 | 5,164,000 | ... |
| 1870 | 6,108,000 | 18 |
| 1880 | 17,894,000 | 193 |
| 1892 | 33,750,000 | 88 |

The condition of the people is also strikingly illustrated by a classification of deposits, the number of small sums standing to credit of current account showing the wide distribution of wealth amongst the great mass of the inhabitants. In 1892 the deposits for fixed terms and at current account were as follows:—

| Deposits. | For Fixed Terms. | | At credit of Current Account. | | Total amount deposited with Banks. | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|------------|
| | Number. | Amount. | Number. | Amount. | Number. | Amount. |
| | | £ | | £ | | £ |
| Not exceeding £300... | 26,003 | 3,419,655 | 99,342 | 3,088,167 | 125,345 | 6,507,822 |
| £301 to £500... | 4,742 | 1,984,384 | 1,878 | 723,062 | 6,620 | 2,707,446 |
| £501 to £1,000... | 4,277 | 3,287,072 | 1,328 | 898,471 | 5,605 | 4,185,543 |
| £1,001 to £2,000... | 2,031 | 2,984,021 | 566 | 768,508 | 2,597 | 3,752,529 |
| £2,001 to £3,000... | 705 | 1,791,279 | 152 | 360,441 | 857 | 2,151,720 |
| £3,001 to £4,000... | 333 | 1,193,804 | 72 | 246,807 | 405 | 1,440,671 |
| £4,001 to £5,000... | 264 | 1,250,061 | 34 | 155,484 | 298 | 1,405,545 |
| £5,001 to £10,000... | 381 | 2,815,833 | 62 | 434,618 | 443 | 3,250,451 |
| £10,001 to £15,000... | 110 | 1,364,676 | 22 | 268,247 | 132 | 1,632,923 |
| £15,001 to £20,000... | 43 | 721,634 | 4 | 72,562 | 47 | 794,196 |
| Exceeding £20,000... | 106 | 5,039,648 | 12 | 483,718 | 118 | 5,523,366 |
| Total | 38,995 | 25,852,127 | 103,472 | 7,500,085 | 142,467 | 33,352,212 |

The extension of banking facilities has caused the amount of coin held in private hands for ordinary purposes of trade to decline about 25 per cent., but it is probable that the minimum amount which is sufficient to meet present requirements has been reached. The total coin in circulation amounted altogether to nearly £8,874,000 in 1892 as compared with £3,000,000 in 1860.

XV. POPULATION.

There is perhaps no more practical test of the prosperity and general welfare of a country than the voluntary influx of population. The very rapid increase in the number of inhabitants of New South Wales is a striking indication of the strength of the inducements which the country offers to settlers. The population at various dates has been :—

| Year. | Population. | Numerical Increase. | Increase per cent. per annum. | Density of population per square mile. |
|-------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1788 | 1,030 | ..... | ..... | ·003 |
| 1801 | 6,502 | 5,472 | 15·23 | ·02 |
| 1811 | 10,025 | 3,523 | 4·42 | ·03 |
| 1821 | 29,783 | 19,758 | 11·50 | ·09 |
| 1831 | 51,155 | 21,372 | 5·56 | ·16 |
| 1841 | 149,669 | 98,514 | 10·57 | ·48 |
| 1851 | 197,168 | 47,499 | 2·79 | ·63 |
| 1861 | 357,978 | 160,810 | 6·14 | 1·15 |
| 1871 | 517,758 | 159,780 | 3·76 | 1·67 |
| 1881 | 782,080 | 264,322 | 4·21 | 2·52 |
| 1891 | 1,165,300 | 383,220 | 4·07 | 3·75 |

When reading the above table it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that in the period covered, New South Wales has given birth to two Colonies, Victoria and Queensland, which now contain about 1,150,000 and 400,000 inhabitants respectively.

The district of Port Phillip, or Victoria, was separated in July, 1851, but in the figures given for that year the inhabitants have not been included in the population of New South Wales, and this severance of one of the fairest portions of the country accounts for the apparent decline. Queensland was erected into a separate colony in December, 1859.

Three causes have combined to bring about the rapid increase in the number of inhabitants—the excess of births over deaths, the large influx of unassisted immigrants, and immigrants brought to the Colony partially at the public expense.

The mean annual birth rate over a series of years is 36·7 per thousand of the population, a figure which cannot be regarded as very high if comparison is made either with the other Australasian Colonies or older countries. On the other hand, the death rate is a low one, being only 14·6 per thousand inhabitants for the same period as has been taken for the births. The total increase from the excess of births over deaths since 1860 has been 485,072, while for the last 20 years the net annual increase to the population from the same cause has been about 2·28 per cent.

Since 1860 the number of persons arriving in New South Wales has in every year exceeded the number of those departing. The greatest apparent excess of arrivals during any one year was 39,683 in 1855. The total number of persons arriving in the country since 1860, has been

1,252,475, but 912,522 have left these shores, so that the net gain to population from immigration has been 339,953. Included in the figures above given are those immigrants who were State assisted, and of whom 211,456 have been brought since the commencement of the system in 1832. Of these 76,749 were adult males; 81,721 adult females; and 27,150 male and 25,836 female children. Only 2,502 of them were foreigners, the vast majority being English or Irish.

The proportionate increase to the population from the excess of births over deaths, and immigrants over emigrants, has been as follows:—

| Period. | Excess of Births over Deaths. | Excess of Immigrants over Emigrants. | Percentage of increase from Immigration. |
|---------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1860-69 | 99,155 | 60,333 | 38 |
| 1870-79 | 136,109 | 107,078 | 46 |
| 1880-92 | 249,808 | 167,542 | 40 |

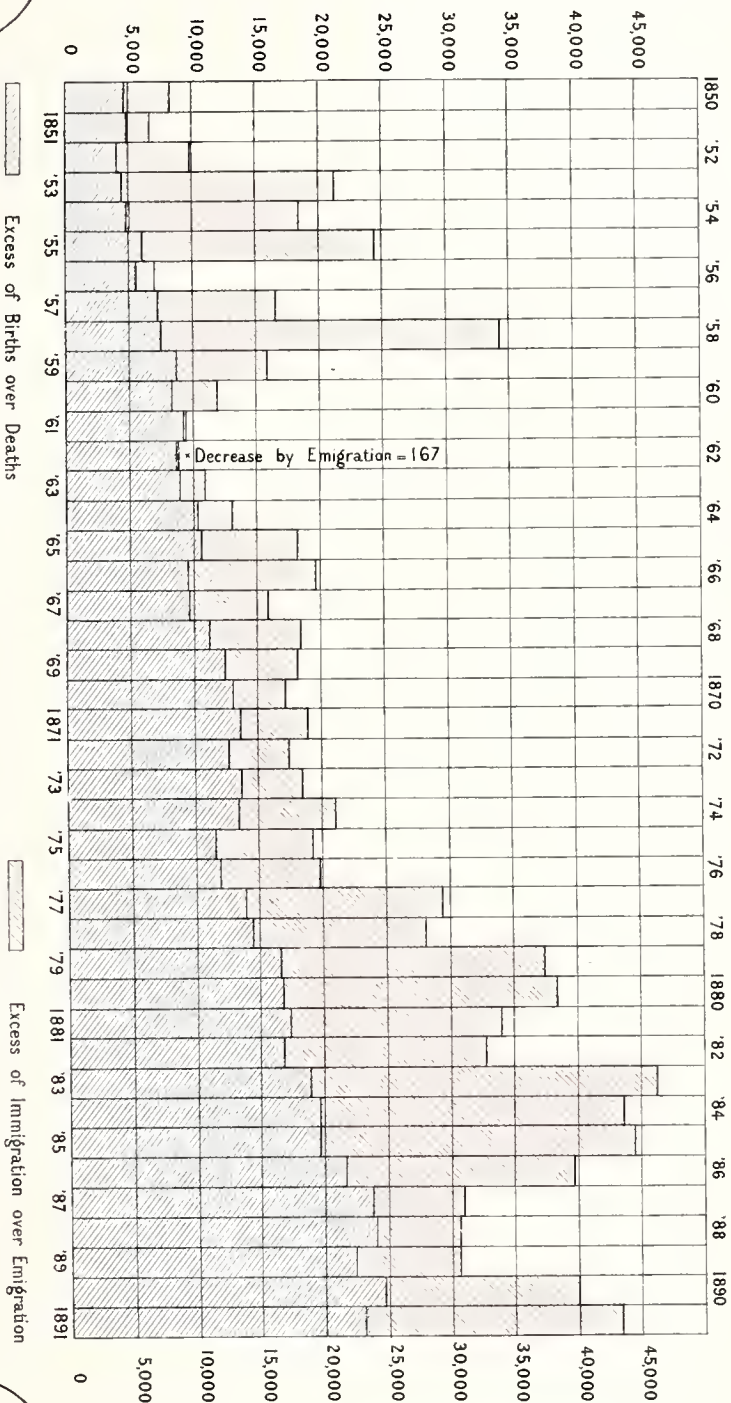
No more eloquent tribute could be paid to the resources and attractions of New South Wales than the increasing desire shown by immigrants to make this country their future home. One of the most marked characteristics of the progress of the last thirty years has been the much more rapid increase of urban as compared with rural population. In England, France, the United States of America, and other countries, totally dissimilar in natural conditions, the same disproportionate growth of towns and cities is to be found.

The growth of eight principal towns has been as follows:—

| | At Census taken in | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|--------|
| | 1861. | 1872. | 1881. | 1891. |
| Albury | 981 | 1,906 | 4,040 | 5,447 |
| Bathurst..... | 4,042 | 5,030 | 7,221 | 9,162 |
| Broken Hill ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 19,789 |
| Goulburn | 3,241 | 4,453 | 5,881 | 10,916 |
| Grafton | 1,441 | 2,250 | 3,891 | 4,445 |
| Maitland..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10,219 |
| Newcastle | 3,722 | 7,581 | 8,986 | 12,914 |
| Parramatta..... | 5,577 | 6,103 | 8,432 | 11,677 |

The town of Broken Hill did not exist in 1881, and is a good example of the mining townships which suddenly rise on the discovery of any rich field.

INCREASE OF POPULATION



The growth of Sydney (the metropolis) has been very remarkable. Fifty years ago there were only 34,825 inhabitants, but at the enumeration in 1891 there were very nearly 400,000. The increase has been as follows:—

| Year. | Metropolis. | | | Numerical Increase. | Annual Increase per cent. |
|-------|-------------|----------|---------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | City. | Suburbs. | Total. | | |
| 1841 | 29,973 | 4,852 | 34,825 | ..... | ..... |
| 1851 | 44,240 | 9,684 | 53,924 | 19,099 | 4·47 |
| 1861 | 56,840 | 36,846 | 93,686 | 39,762 | 5·68 |
| 1871 | 74,423 | 60,324 | 134,747 | 41,061 | 3·70 |
| 1881 | 106,580 | 130,720 | 237,300 | 102,553 | 5·82 |
| 1891 | 109,090 | 290,180 | 399,270 | 161,970 | 5·35 |

The increase of the metropolitan population has been nearly half as fast again as that of the country generally, and Sydney now contains one-third of the total number of inhabitants of New South Wales.

The change which is taking place in the distribution of the population over the country during the last decade can best be seen from the following table:—

| Division. | 1881. Total Population | 1891. Total Population | Total Increase. | Rate of Increase per cent. per annum. | Total Increase per cent. |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eastern Division— | | | | | |
| Metropolis | 224,939 | 383,386 | 158,447 | 5·48 | 70·44 |
| Outside Metropolis | 423,702 | 579,201 | 150,499 | 3·05 | 35·11 |
| Central Division | 72,191 | 104,938 | 32,747 | 3·81 | 45·36 |
| Western Division | 22,409 | 59,005 | 36,596 | 10·16 | 163·31 |
| Lord Howe Island |* | 55 | 55 |* |* |
| Shipping | 3,227 | 5,649 | 2,422 | 5·76 | 75·05 |
| Total | 751,468 | 1,132,234 | 380,766 | 4·19 | 50·67 |

* The Census of Lord Howe Island was not taken in 1881.

The relative proportion of the native-born to the total population is increasing rapidly; and, at the census in 1891, they numbered 725,015, out of a total of 1,132,234. At the four last enumerations the proportion of each element has been as follows:—

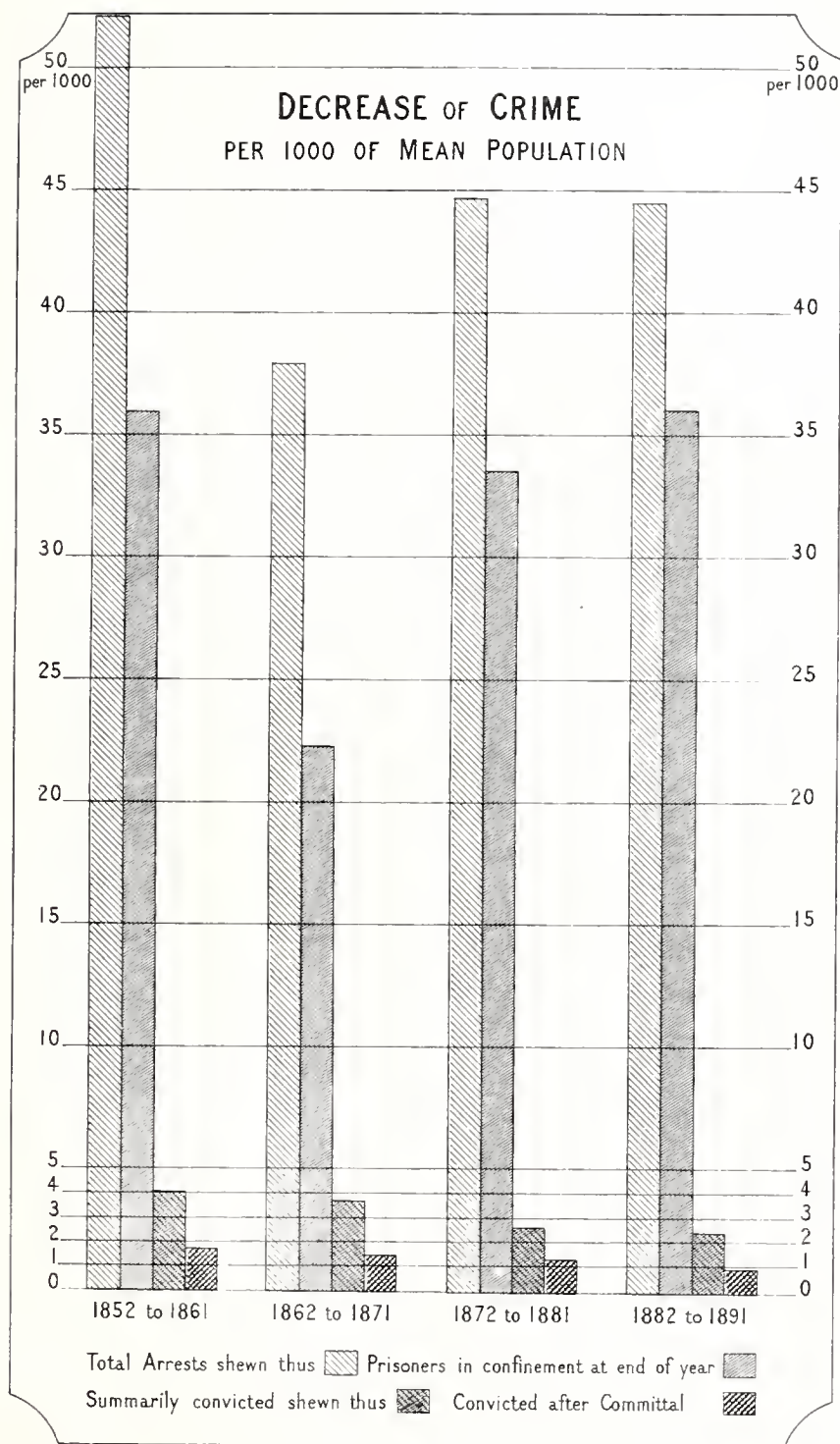
| | 1861. | 1871. | 1881. | 1891. |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. | Per cent. |
| Native-born of New South Wales | 45·68 | 58·57 | 62·18 | 64·04 |
| Natives of other Australasian Colonies | 1·34 | 2·67 | 5·94 | 8·25 |
| English, Irish and Scotch..... | 46·18 | 34·56 | 27·74 | 23·50 |
| Foreign | 6·80 | 4·20 | 4·14 | 4·21 |

It will thus be seen that in 1891 no less than 95·79 per cent. of the whole population were British subjects by birth. At the census of 1861 there were 12,988 Chinese in New South Wales, most of whom had been attracted by the discovery of gold. Ten years later the number had fallen to 7,220, and in 1881 an increase to 10,205 was found. At the census of 1891 there were 13,289 full-blooded Chinese, of whom 156 were females, and 422 male and 445 female half-casts. The restrictions placed by the Legislature on the immigration of Chinese have, however, stopped the influx. For some time the number leaving has very greatly exceeded the number arriving, and there is a prospect of the race being entirely excluded at no very distant date.

An examination of the census returns shows that the average age of males is 24·7 years, while the average for females is about two years less. The mean age of the whole population is 23·7 years. If under 15 years is taken as the dependent age for both males and females there were 217,991 of the former and 213,198 of the latter. The number of men at the supporting age—*i.e.* between 15 and 65—was 373,346, and at military age, between 20 and 46 years, 209,582. The number of women at a reproductive age was 239,503. All these figures are exclusive of the aboriginal inhabitants, of whom there were 5,097 full-blooded and 3,188 half-castes. The total estimated population of New South Wales at the end of June, 1892, was 1,182,500.

XVI. EDUCATION.

Previous to 1848 the system of primary education in force was purely denominational. The Government granted assistance to the heads of religious bodies in proportion to the amount expended by them upon instruction, but no provision was made for the establishment of schools entirely under State control. Attempts were made to modify the system in force as early as 1834, and five years later a grant was made with the object of securing undenominational education for the children of those who preferred it, but no definite steps were taken in this direction until 1844,



when a committee of the Legislative Council reported in favour of the adoption of the Irish National School system; and, in accordance with this recommendation, an Act was passed constituting two Boards, to one of which was entrusted the administration of denominational education, and to the other the undenominational or, as it was called, the National system. This arrangement existed for eighteen years, until it was abolished by the passing of the Public Schools Act of 1866. This Act provided for two distinct classes of schools, though all schools receiving aid from the State were nominally under a Board appointed by the Government, and styled the Council of Education. The Public Schools were entirely under the control of this Board, but the denominational schools were partly governed by the various religious bodies by whom they had been founded. Good work was done under this system, although, in many respects, it was defective; but the principle of granting State aid to religious schools became more and more unpopular, and in 1880 State aid to denominational education was finally abolished.

By the new Act the entire educational system of the Colony was remodelled; the Council of Education was dissolved, and a Minister of Public Instruction created in its place. Public schools, to afford primary instruction to all children without sectarian or class distinction, were established, as well as Superior Public Schools, in which additional lessons in higher branches may be given. Evening Public Schools were formed with the object of instructing persons who may not have received the advantages of primary education, and who could not attend the day schools; and High Schools for boys and girls, in which the course of instruction is of such a character as to complete the Public School curriculum, or to prepare students for the University. In all State Schools the teaching is strictly non-sectarian, but "secular instruction" is held to include general religious teaching, as distinguished from dogmatical or polemical theology. The History of England and of Australia are to form part of the course of secular instruction; and it is further provided that four hours during each school-day shall be devoted to secular instruction exclusively, but one hour each day may be set apart for religious instruction, to be given in a separate class-room by the clergyman or religious teacher of any persuasion, to those children of the same denomination whose parents may not offer any objection.

Attendance at school is compulsory for children between the ages of 6 and 14 years for at least 70 days in each half-year, unless just cause of exemption can be shown, and parents are required to pay a weekly fee of 3d. per child, but not exceeding 1s. in all for the children of one family. The fees, however, may be remitted where it is shown that the parents are unable to pay. Children attending school are allowed to travel free by rail.

The establishment of Provisional Schools, and the appointment of itinerant teachers in remote and thinly-populated districts, is also provided for, as well as the establishment of training schools for teachers. Parents are not compelled to send their children to the public schools, but have free choice in the matter, the State only insisting that instruction shall be given. Great as has been the material progress of the Colony, its intellectual advancement has been even more rapid, and in the records of the marriage registers signed by marks, a most accurate gauge of educational progress is to be found. The earliest official record of marriages was for the year 1857, when out of 5,804 persons married, 1,646 or 28·36 per cent. were unable to sign the

marriage register. During 1891 the number of such persons was only 507, or 3 per cent. of the total number married.

| Year. | Persons Married. | Percentage signing with marks. |
|-------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1857 | 15,804 | 28 |
| 1861 | 6,444 | 25 |
| 1871 | 7,906 | 17 |
| 1881 | 12,568 | 7 |
| 1891 | 16,914 | 3 |

The progress exhibited in the above table is marvellous, and it must be remembered that of the 507 persons using marks a large proportion were not born in New South Wales, but arrived too late in life to avail themselves of its educational system.

The following table gives the number of schools, both public and private, and enrolled scholars at different periods. Victoria, it should be remembered, was separated in 1851, and Queensland in 1859:—

| Year. | Population. | Number of Schools. | Children Enrolled. | Proportion of Population enrolled. |
|-------|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1836 | 77,096 | 85 | 3,391 | 4 |
| 1841 | 149,669 | 209 | 9,632 | 6 |
| 1851 | 197,168 | 423 | 21,120 | 11 |
| 1861 | 357,978 | 849 | 37,874 | 11 |
| 1871 | 517,758 | 1,450 | 77,889 | 15 |
| 1881 | 778,690 | 2,066 | 166,536 | 21 |
| 1891 | 1,143,580 | 3,161 | 250,691 | 22 |

Owing to the scattered character of the population in nearly all the country districts, the compulsory clauses of the Public Instruction Act cannot be strictly enforced, but there is every reason to believe that the number of children growing up in absolute ignorance is very small. At the last four enumerations the proportion of persons from 5 to 10 years of age who could read and write was in every 10,000 as follows:—

| | 1861. | 1871. | 1881. | 1891. |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Read and write..... | 2,355 | 3,470 | 4,413 | 5,377 |
| Read only..... | 3,289 | 2,752 | 1,982 | 1,368 |
| Unable to read..... | 4,356 | 3,778 | 3,605 | 3,255 |

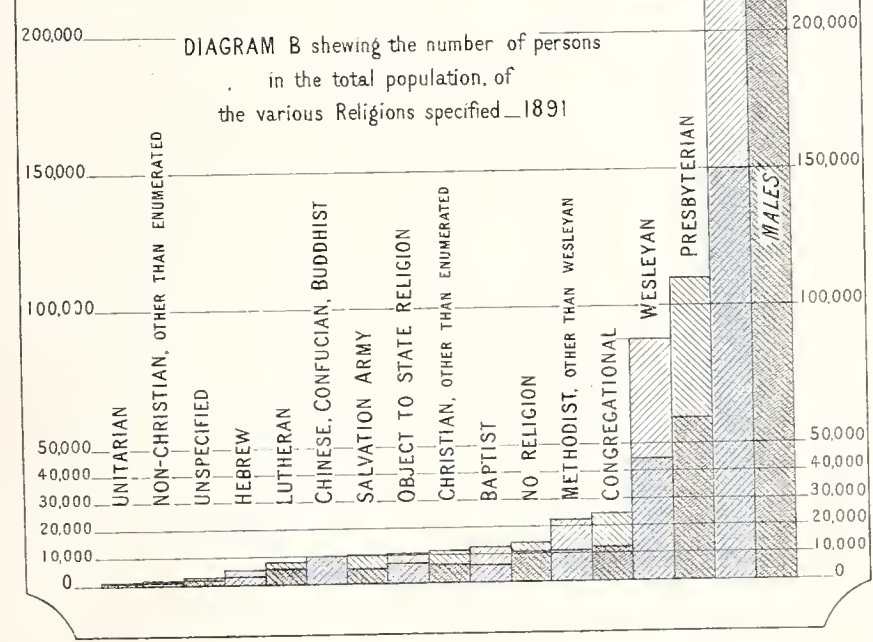
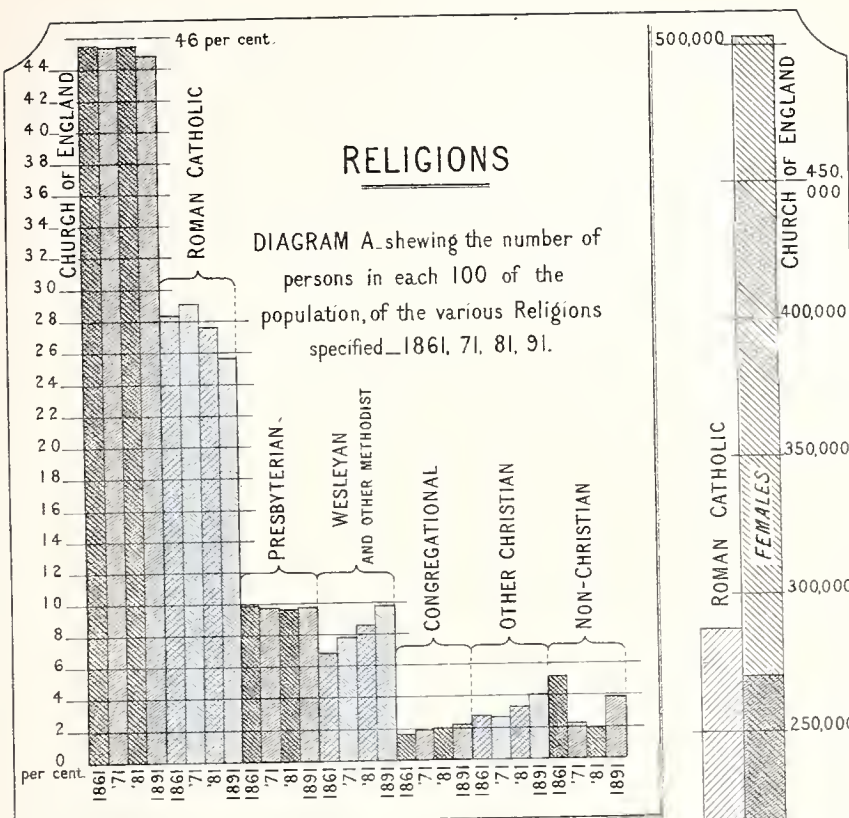


PHOTO-LITHOGRAPHED AT THE GOVT. PRINTING OFFICE
SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES.

Taking the persons from 10 to 20 years, a large proportion of whom would in 1891 have benefitted by the educational system, the comparison is still more satisfactory:—

| | 1861. | 1871. | 1881. | 1891. |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Read and write | 6,769 | 7,666 | 8,804 | 9,705 |
| Read only | 1,854 | 1,292 | 614 | 143 |
| Unable to read..... | 1,377 | 1,042 | 582 | 152 |

At the last enumeration of the people the degree of education was shown as follows:—

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| English Language— | |
| Read and write | 821,517 |
| Read only..... | 42,853 |
| Foreign Language only— | |
| Read and write | 12,014 |
| Read only..... | 536 |
| Cannot read..... | 244,398 |
| Not stated | 2,636 |
| Total | 1,123,954 |
| Aborigines not tabulated | 8,280 |
| Total | 1,132,234 |

In 1849 a committee of the Legislature was appointed to “consider and report how best to institute an University for the promotion of literature and science, to be endowed at the public expense.” In the following year a bill, based for the most part on the charter of University College, London, was introduced and passed. The University of Sydney has now become a most prosperous and useful institution, and has been enriched by many magnificent private benefactions, as well as by liberal grants from the Government. In addition to the schools and directly educational institutions, public libraries are distributed throughout the country, and the Government gives the greatest encouragement to everything which tends to enlighten and improve the people.

XVII. WORK AND WAGES.

The condition of the working classes in New South Wales has been steadily improving, for, while wages have had an upward tendency, prices have been declining. For purposes of comparison the period of the country's occupation can best be divided into eight parts, the first period is that prior to 1821, when the forced labour of the bond dominated the market; the second, from 1821 to 1838, when there was a large immigration of free mechanics and

artisans, but the assignment system still continued ; the third, from 1838 to 1843, an exceptionally prosperous era, characterised by a great inflow of British capital for investment. From 1843 to 1851, which comprises the fourth epoch, there was extreme depression following the inflation of previous years, which was only broken by the discovery of gold. From 1851 to 1861 the country was more or less disorganised on account of the gold-fields, and from 1861 to 1872 things gradually quietened down after the gold-rush, and labour returned to the more regular industries. Between 1872 and 1886 there was an overflowing Treasury, owing to the receipts from extensive sales of Crown lands, and the expenditure on public works was lavish. From 1886 to the present time wages have been steady for the labour of mechanics, varying slightly from 10s. to 11s. per day. The average wages of the three principal classes of labour have been as follows :—

| Period. | Mechanics. Per Day. | Farm Laborers. Per Week. | Female Servants. Per Week. |
|---------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| Prior to 1821 | 5 0 | 6 0 | 4 0 |
| 1821 to 1838 | 6 0 | 7 0 | 5 0 |
| 1838 to 1843 | 8 0 | 8 4 | 5 4 |
| 1843 to 1851 | 4 9 | 8 0 | 5 9 |
| 1851 to 1861 | 14 0 | 11 0 | 8 0 |
| 1861 to 1872 | 8 6 | 11 4 | 10 0 |
| 1872 to 1886 | 10 4 | 15 0 | 13 0 |
| Since 1886 | 10 0 | 15 0 | 13 0 |

A bare statement of wages means very little unless the purchasing power of the money earned is also shown. It will be seen that the money wages of mechanics have doubled, the wages of farm laborers have increased two and a half times, and the remuneration of female servants has more than trebled, but during the same period the prices of the principal articles of common use have fallen 7 per cent. The level of real wages and prices for each period has been :—

| Period. | Wages Level. | Price Level. |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Prior to 1821 | 47 | 107 |
| 1821 to 1838 | 55 | 109 |
| 1838 to 1843 | 72 | 111 |
| 1843 to 1851 | 53 | 90 |
| 1851 to 1861 | 93 | 151 |
| 1861 to 1872 | 81 | 105 |
| 1872 to 1886 | 100 | 103 |
| Since 1886 | 100 | 100 |

It has been estimated that the present income of wage-earners amounts to £28,550,000 per annum, and the whole income of persons living or holding property in New South Wales is approximately £62,950,000, or £57 per head. A natural result of the prosperity of the people is a very high standard of living. The amount of grain, meat, sugar, and potatoes per inhabitant which is required by the principal European countries and the United States is as follows, if compared with New South Wales:—

| Country. | Meat. | Grain. | Sugar. | Potatoes. |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------|
| | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. | lbs. |
| Great Britain | 109 | 378 | 75 | 380 |
| France | 77 | 540 | 20 | 570 |
| Germany | 64 | 550 | 18 | 1,020 |
| United States | 150 | 370 | 53 | 170 |
| New South Wales | 271 | 409 | 95 | 182 |

Potatoes have been included in the above comparison, as in many instances they are used largely to supplement, or in the place of grain. It will be seen from the above table that the average inhabitant of New South Wales uses annually two and a half times as much meat as an Englishman and considerably more than half as much again as an American, while with regard to France and Germany the comparison is even more remarkable. Whether this enormous consumption of meat is a matter for unqualified congratulation is open to doubt, but it clearly demonstrates the general material prosperity of the people and the comparative absence of poverty. This point becomes all the more emphatic when it is borne in mind that to sustain this high standard of living only requires the earnings of 98 days' labour per annum, or but 33 per cent. of the total income of the population. In no other country in the world, with the exception, perhaps, of the United States, is such a small proportion of the earnings of the people absorbed by their requirements for food. Thus, in France 44 per cent., and in Germany 49 per cent., of the gross income goes for food, representing 132 and 148 days' labour each year. In other words, the average wage-earner of New South Wales, with an expenditure of more than £8 per year on food and drink than the German, still has the earnings of fifty days in the year more with which to provide himself with luxuries and amusements, while if the shorter hours of labour which obtain in Australia are also made an element of the comparison, the position of the inhabitant of New South Wales appears all the more satisfactory.

Under conditions so favourable it is not surprising that the savings of the people have increased nearly tenfold. The total amount of money deposited with all institutions is £43,357,600, including the deposits in banks, savings banks, building and investment companies, and the Post Office. The deposits

in savings banks have increased from £557,200 in 1860 to £5,342,100 in 1891.

| Year. | Deposits in savings banks. | Per inhabitant. |
|-------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| | £ | £ s. d. |
| 1860 | 557,200 | 1 11 11 |
| 1870 | 936,500 | 1 17 6 |
| 1880 | 2,075,900 | 2 15 6 |
| 1891 | 5,342,100 | 4 11 8 |

XVIII. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS.

In the following table an attempt has been made to show, in as brief and graphic a form as possible, the most striking points in the progress of New South Wales. The year 1860 has been chosen as the earliest date for purposes of comparison, for on the 1st December, 1859, the province of Moreton Bay was erected into a separate colony, under the name of Queensland, and the boundaries of New South Wales have since remained unchanged. An examination of the statistical information for the years since 1860 cannot fail to impress the reader with the marvellous growth of this, the mother Colony of Australasia, in all that appertains to true progress and national development. If the whole period of thirty years is divided into three almost equal portions, a comparison of the statistics bearing upon twelve principal points of the country's growth show that the advance made has been as follows:—

| | 1860. | 1870. | 1880. | 1891. |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Population | 100 | 143 | 213 | 334 |
| Revenue | 100 | 161 | 375 | 966 |
| Banking "..... | 100 | 126 | 250 | 476 |
| Trade | 100 | 125 | 234 | 407 |
| Shipping | 100 | 171 | 283 | 662 |
| Railways | 100 | 484 | 1,213 | 3,121 |
| Agriculture | 100 | 164 | 271 | 451 |
| Mining | 100 | 81 | 104 | 742 |
| Manufactures | 100 | 130 | 233 | ..... |
| Pastoral..... | 100 | 128 | 190 | 266 |
| Instruction | 100 | 214 | 475 | 721 |
| Illiteracy | 100 | 68 | 27 | 12 |

Thus it will be seen that during the thirty years under review, population has increased more than threefold. The public revenue is more than nine times as large now as in 1860, and if compared with population has increased

128 per cent. With the extension of commerce and the increase of wealth banking has more than kept pace, and the banking power, that is the aggregate of capital and deposits, has grown more than fourfold. Trade with places beyond the Country has increased from £12,600,000 in 1860 to over £51,300,000, or more than 300 per cent. Railways which were quite in their infancy at the beginning of the period, have grown with marvellous rapidity. The figures given above represent the relative mileage open for traffic in each of the years named, taking 1860 when only 70 miles had been completed as the standard. The area under crop is nearly four-and-a-half times greater than thirty years ago, and the product from the mines during 1891 was more than 642 per cent more valuable than in 1860. The number of persons engaged in manufactures has more than trebled, and the live stock has increased 166 per cent. With the spread of instruction among the children it will be seen that the illiteracy of the people is being rapidly removed, so that a retrospect affords promise not only of the material prosperity of the future, but of an equal development of art and literature.

[Ten Diagrams.]

